

Hover fly

Syrphidae

Adults: Resemble bees. Abdomen usually has black and yellow stripes. Adults often hover over flowers (hence the common name “hover flies” or “flower flies”).



Length: 4-15 mm



Eggs: Small (1 mm in length). Cylindrical, white and laid singly on leaves or shoots near aphid colonies.

Larvae (maggots): Creamy-white to green or brown. Worm-like, lacking legs. Narrow toward the head with a pair of respiratory tubes projecting at the rear end. Distinctive markings, stripes or spines often seen from the dorsal view.



Hover fly – *continued*

Pupae: Green, tan or brown. Typically pear-shaped with a pair of respiratory tubes projecting at the rear end. May pupate on plants or drop from plants and pupate in the soil.



Diet: Larvae of many species eat aphids or other soft-bodied insects. Adults feed on nectar and pollen.