Fungus Gnats

Typical Location When Observed: In homes around houseplants and collected around the base of windows.

Importance/Damage: Primarily a minor nuisance pest in homes, particularly during cool season. Larvae can cause minor injuries to plant roots.

Distinguishing Features: Adults are 3 mm long, delicate, black flies with long legs and antennae. There is a distinct “Y-shaped” pattern on the forewings. The larvae are worm-like, translucent, with a black head capsule and are located in the growing medium of houseplants.

Resources: This insect is covered in more detail in Extension Fact Sheet 5.584, Fungus Gnats as Houseplant and Indoor Pests. It is also mentioned in the Fact Sheet 5.595, Managing Houseplant Pests and in Fact Sheet 5.502, Flies in the Home.

Scientific Name: Bradysia spp.
Order: Diptera (True Flies)
Family: Mycetophilidae (Darkwinged Fungus Gnats)