



Bloodworm

The Bloodworm Midge

Chironomus zealandicus

Size

This is the largest of the NZ midges, typically 20mm.

Habitat

These midges are specialists at living in low-oxygen, nutrient enriched muds.

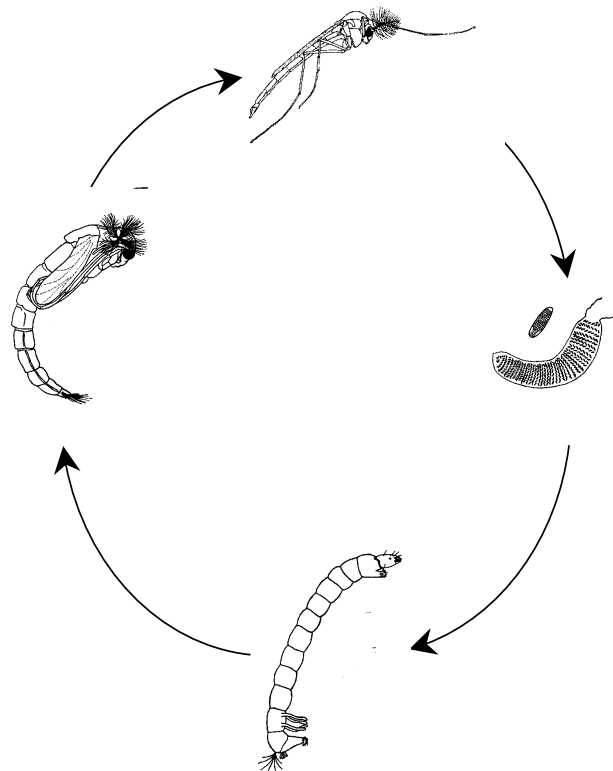
Feeding Habits

Larvae emerge from their tubes in the mud and pick up **organic matter**.

Special Features

- The larvae are red because of the **haemoglobin** in their blood, which allows them to use oxygen extremely efficiently.
- Bloodworm midge larvae also tolerate extremes of **pH**, low **dissolved oxygen** and high **salinity**.
- The bloodworm lifecycle can take 20 – 25 days depending on the temperature.

Life Cycle – Complete Metamorphosis



Typical Size

