

Retracting Mosquito Antennae

Most people are aware that it is only the female mosquito that feeds on blood. The male feeds on plant juices. It is also easy to see the difference between males and females in most species. The male has a distinctive pair of antennae. While the female mosquito's antennae are difficult to see, the male's looks like a pair of branched feathers coming out of its head. And if it weren't for a very special feature, these large, feathery antennae would make it difficult for him to fly.

Each antenna is planted in a socket, next to which there is a pad made out of special protein. This pad is actually a water-powered engine. When flying, the mosquito's antennae are flattened against its head. But when he lands, he raises the antennae so that he can hear. To raise the antennae, a small amount of water from his system is pumped into the pad which increases its size by 25 percent and causes the pad to unfold, raising the antennae.

Nature is full of so many wonders that it would be easy for us to get lost in them. But every one of these wonders is designed by God to lead us to desire to learn more about Him – especially to learn from His Word that He wants a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 40:5a

“Many, O LORD my God, [are] thy wonderful works [which] thou hast done...”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, fill me with wonder and thanksgiving for all Your marvelous works, and especially for Your forgiveness for me through Jesus Christ. In His Name. Amen.

Ref: Steven Vogel. “Life’s Devices: The Physical World of Animals and Plants.” Princeton University Press.