

What do boy mosquitoes eat?

From the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources webpage; there are about 50 species of mosquitoes that can be found in California, there are only a few that are a threat to humans (through the transmission of disease such as malaria and encephalitis). They are all generally alike and have similar life cycles; for simplicity, I am mashing them together into one generic species.

During the course of a mosquito's life its nutritional needs will change.

Mosquitoes start out their lives as an egg; at this age they eat (get nutrition from) the yolk sac in their egg. After they hatch the larval mosquitoes eat (drink) the juices from tiny bits of plant matter from the water they were born in. The larva will molt three times, becoming a bit larger each time; with their fourth molt the larva turn into a pupae, while a pupae mosquitoes do not eat.

After a short period the pupae hatch into adult mosquitoes. This is where things get interesting. The males hatch first and are immediately hungry, eating sap from plants; females soon follow and also suck sap from plants.

After the new generation of mosquitoes has bred, the males continue to eat nothing but sap. As eggs grow in the female she needs to have a blood meal to provide adequate nutrition for the eggs to completely develop and survive to create the next generation. This is the only time that a mosquito will need to have a blood meal; you will never be bitten by a boy mosquito. Since mosquito life cycle can be as short as a week and there are new mosquitoes being born all the time; you can understand why there are so many mosquitoes buzzing around your head when you go camping.

The short answer is boy mosquitoes drink a lot of juice, girl mosquitoes do too; but, they also eat one blood meal in their life.