

# Caenotus minutus (Small Window Fly)

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No Photo Available

## Taxonomy

- **Class:** INSECTA
- **Order:** DIPTERA
- **Family:** SCENOPINIDAE
- **Genus:** Caenotus
- **Scientific Name:** *Caenotus minutus* Cole, 1923
- **Common Name:** Small Window Fly
- **Synonyms:**
- **Taxonomic Name Source:** Poole, R. W., and P. Gentili (eds.). 1996. *Nomina Insecta Nearctica: a checklist of the insects of North America. Volume 3 (Diptera, Lepidoptera, Siphonaptera)*. Entomological Information Services, Rockville, MD.

## Agency Status

- **NMDGF:**
- **Federal Status:**
- **BLM Sensitive:**
- **USFS:**
- **IUCN Red List:** [Not Evaluated](#)
- **Nature Serve Global:** [GNR](#)
- **NHNM State:** S1
- **NM Endemic:** YES

## Description

*Caenotus minutus* is a small, (4-5.5 mm) dark-coloured species with transparent wings, short antennae, and short white hairs on the face and thorax (Cole 1923).

## Habitat and Ecology

Very little is known about the habitats and ecology of this species. Suitable habitat may be arid shrubland, as the type specimen was taken in the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion. Adults have been collected flying during April and May (Hull 1973). They may be attracted to light, like many other fly taxa, as many of the genus have been discovered on windows (Hull 1973, Yeates 1992). Larvae of Scenopinidae are predaceous on larvae of other insects (Kelsey 1969). Scenopinidae is known as a pollinator family of flies (Grimaldi 1999), and many *Caenotus* species have been documented as pollinators of Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) (Villalobos *et al.* 2019), however species-specific floral visitation data is not available for *C. inoratus*. A sister species, *C. tanyrhynchus* is documented as having many pollen grains from more than 2 plant species on its body (Metz 2003).

## Geographic Range:

The type locality of *Caenotus minutus* is Alamogordo, in southeastern New Mexico (Cole 1923). Extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy (AOO) cannot be accurately calculated because there are no geo-referenced records available beside one centroid of Alamogordo, NM. Nothing else is known about the distribution of this species.

## Conservation Considerations:

There is no targeted conservation for this species. Surveys are needed to understand whether the species remains

extant. Research on the distribution, population size and trend, and threats is urgently needed, as it is possible this species is rare or has a restricted distribution.

## Threats:

The threats to this species are unknown, as little research has been done on the species. It has not been recorded recently, so research on possible threats is needed.

## Population:

The population size and trend are not known for this species, as it is only known from the type locality and has not been recorded since it was described (Cole 1923). It is unclear whether the species has not been recorded because surveys have not been carried out, or if the species is rare.

## References:

- [GBIF.org. 2024. GBIF Occurrence Download. 2024. https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.d5z8z6](https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.d5z8z6)
- [Evenhuis, N.L. and Pape, T.. 2024. Systema Dipteriorum. In: O. BÅjnki, Y. Roskov, M. DÅrjing, G. Ower, D. R. HernÅndez Robles, C.A. Plata Corredor, T. Stjernegaard Jeppesen, A. Årn, L. Vandepitte, D. Hobern, P. Schalk, R.E. DeWalt, K. Ma, J. Miller, T. Orrell, R. Aalbu, J. Abbott, R. Adla. Natural History Museum of Denmark2024. https://doi.org/10.48580/dfs-3bz](https://doi.org/10.48580/dfs-3bz)

## More Information

