

## Colorado Insect of Interest

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# Ceroxys latiusculus (A Picture-winged Fly)

**Scientific Name:** *Ceroxys latiusculus* (Loew)

**Order:** Diptera (True Flies)

**Family:** Ulidiidae (Picture-winged flies)

**Identification and Descriptive Features:** *Ceroxys latiusculus* is a moderate sized fly (9-12 mm) about the size of a house fly. Its general coloration is grayish-brown but the most notable physical feature are the wings which have dark patterned markings. This is the only common “picture-winged fly” that occurs in Colorado buildings.

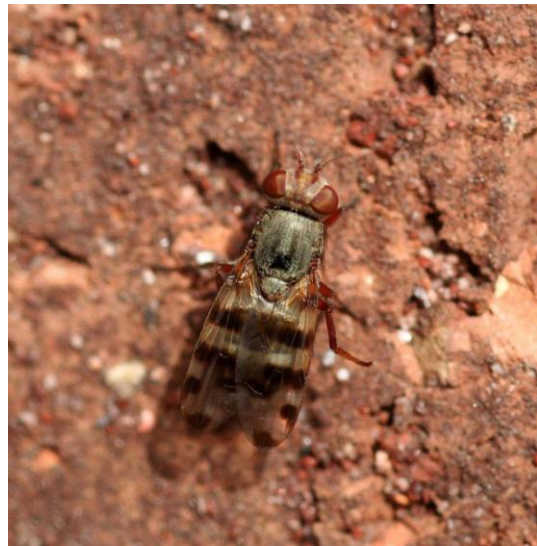
**Distribution in Colorado:** Likely present throughout the state in plains and foothills areas.

**Life History and Habits:** Little is known about the biology of this insect. Larvae develop within the seed heads of *Senecio* and other composite flowers.

What attracts attention is that this species frequently enters buildings in autumn as it searches for sites to survive winter. Along with cluster flies (*Pollenia* species), this picture-winged fly is the most common fly found indoors during at this time of year.



**Figure 1.** *Ceroxys latiusculus*, a type of picture-winged fly.



**Figure 2.** *Ceroxys latiusculus* sunning on a building wall in early fall. These flies often incidentally enter homes at this time of year.