

Females vs. Males

There are several ways to tell male and female flies apart. Look for these characteristics to separate the two sexes:

Size and pigmentation

Mature males (left) are generally smaller and more darkly pigmented than females (right).



Shape

Males (left) have rounded, darkly colored posteriors, and females (female) tend to have lighter, pointier posteriors.



Sex combs

Males have groups of black bristles that protrude from the uppermost joint of the foreleg. Females do not have sex combs. On low zoom (left) the sex combs look like a dot on the lower joint, while at high zoom (right) the sex combs look like dark, thick bristles.



Genital arch

Upon examination of a fly's posterior, a male will have a dark tan colored arch. Note that the fly must be positioned on its back in order for the genital arch to be visible.

