



Dog Dung Fly

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Musca sorbens Wiedman

Origin

Found in Hawaii in 1949.

Currently it is widely dispersed throughout the Pacific.

Public health concern

Exhibits an aggressive attraction to the human body.

May cause infections in open wounds.

Implicated in transmitting viruses, bacteria, and parasites to animals and man.

Hosts

Cattle, swine, dogs, cats.

Livestock concern

Can pass diseases in livestock.

Description

Small fly about $\frac{3}{16}$ inches long, about half the size of the house fly.

Has two black stripes down its gray back.

Unlike the house fly, it rarely enters homes and is not attracted to food.

Life cycle

Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, adult.

From egg to adult takes 15 days.

Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices of animal dung.

Larvae feed on the dung for 4–5 days, and pupae emerge as adults 4–5 days later.

Control

Dairies need to clear milking stalls of fresh manure daily. Change to animal rations that contain less corn.

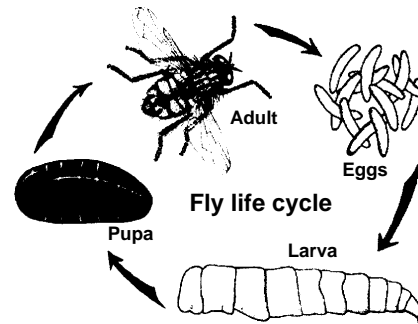
In urban areas, the daily collection and disposal of pet feces is recommended.

Pyrethrins and other chemicals have been successfully used for the quick knock-down of adult flies.

Consult your pesticide supplier for recommended products, and always follow label directions.



Dog dung flies: female on left, male on right.



References

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- Mau, R.L. 1978. Larval development of *Musca sorbens* in animal dung in Hawaii. *Annals Entomol. Soc. America* 71(4):635–636.
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- Photo: R.F.L. Mau, CTAHR, UHM.