Bronze Bottle Fly

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Lucilia cuprina Wiedemann
Lucilia serricata Meiger

The bronze bottle fly is also called the wool maggot.

Origin
Not reported in Hawaii until 1947; now common on all of the Hawaiian islands, especially at lower elevations.

Public health concern
Frequently causes myiasis of wounds on humans and animals.

Hosts
Lucilia cuprina is the major sheep maggot of Australia, New Zealand, and S. Africa, while Lucilia serricata is a maggot on sheep in North America and Europe. Both species breed and feed on carrion and garbage but not on animal dung.

Livestock concern
Blowfly maggots burrow into the breech, tail, and crotch area of sheep and can cause sheep to die.

Description
Medium sized fly, 3⁄16 – 3⁄8 inches long. Metallic green body with a bronze sheen. Forehead is silver, with a paired row of black spiracles.

Life cycle
Growth stages egg, larva, pupa, to adult in 3–4 weeks. Eggs are deposited in clusters of 100–300. The white maggots feed on the skin surface until they drop off and pupate on the ground. The larval and pupal stages take 2–3 weeks to complete.

Control
On sheep, keep the fleece short in areas susceptible to blowfly attack, and reduce the incidence of wounds. Consult your veterinarian for recommended control products.

References