



Bronze Bottle Fly

Michael W. DuPont¹ and Linda Burnham Larish²

¹CTAHR Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences, ²Hawaii Department of Health

***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

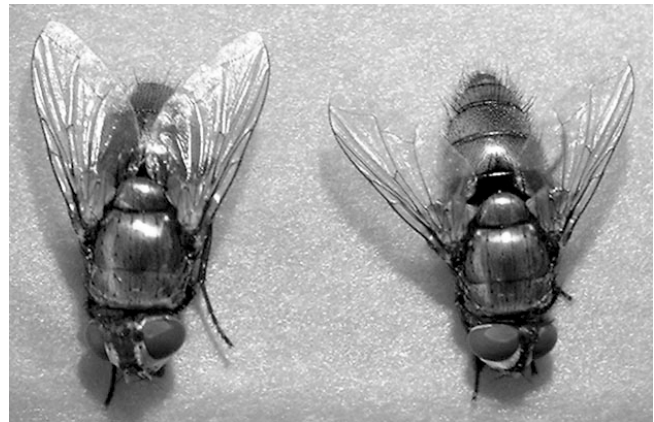
Medium sized fly, $\frac{3}{16}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long.
Metallic green body with a bronze sheen.
Forehead is silver, with a paired row of black spiracles.

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.



Above, adults of *L. cuprina*: female on left, male on right. Below right, head-on view of large compound eyes nearly covering the fly's entire head. Below left (bottom to top), development from eggs through larval instars to pupa.

References

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Kettle, D.S. (ed.). 1995. Medical and veterinary entomology. CAB International, Wallingford, UK. pp. 276–279.
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Hawaii Department of Health. 1991. Vector control manual.
Source of photos: *Lucilia cuprina*, the Australian sheep blowfly.
<www.geocities.com/cyberfly271275/luciliacuprinatn.html>, accessed 08/11/03.