



Horn Fly

Michael W. DuPont¹ and Linda Burnham Larish²

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

***Haematobia irritans* L.**

Origin

May have entered Hawaii with the first cattle in 1793.
First reported from Kaneohe Ranch in 1898.

Public health concern

Bites people when dislocated from its host.

Hosts

Feed on cattle but may also feed on horses, sheep, and goats.

Livestock concern

Causes weight and blood loss to animals, and bites may lead to secondary infections.

Description

Small, gray fly about $\frac{3}{16}$ inches long.
A black proboscis projects forward from the bottom of the head.
They cluster on cattle's back, shoulders, sides, and belly.
Identified by their head-downward position on cattle.

Life cycle

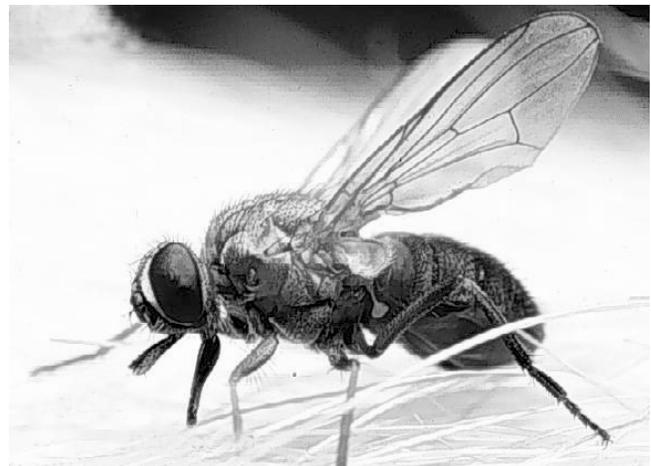
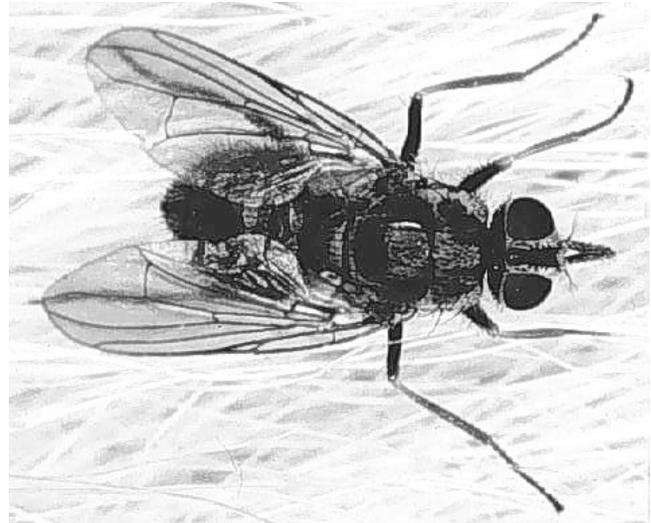
Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, adult.
From egg to adult takes two weeks.
Eggs are laid in fresh cow manure.
Larvae and pupae develop in fresh cow manure, and adult flies emerge from the manure piles.

Control

Dairies need to clear milking stalls of fresh manure daily.
Flies on animals need to be controlled through the use of back rubbers, dust bags, impregnated ear tags, pour-ons, or sprays.
Consult your pesticide supplier for recommended products, and always follow label directions.

References

Hardy, D. Elmo. 1981. *Insects of Hawaii*, v. 14, Diptera: Cyclorrhapa IV. Univ. Hawaii Press, Honolulu. pp. 271–274.



Pereira, Marcelo de Campos. The Veterinary Parasitology Images Gallery. University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Photos on this page ©MCP; used with permission.

Managing insect problems on beef cattle. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service <www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/C671.PDF>.

Williams, Ralph E., et al. (eds.). 1985. *Livestock entomology*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 60–61.