



Myiasis

DIFFERENTIATING THE BAD FROM THE WORST

Botfly (Warbles / Weevils) - *Cuterebra* spp. fly larvae

Numerous species cause myiasis (most commonly rodent and rabbit bot flies).



Adult Fly: large and beelike

Eggs: deposited around animal burrows, activated by heat and ingested via grooming or open wounds. Migrate to specific locations SQ and form a breathing pore through the skin.



Larvae / maggots: 3 stages (30d)

1. Slender, transparent, 1-1.5mm
2. Grey to white/cream, 5-15mm
3. Dark with spicules, 3-4.5 cm



Signs:

- Normal migration: Well demarcated, soft fistulous swelling, single maggot/ lesion
- Aberrant migration (head, brain, nasal passages, pharynx, eyelids): depression, lethargy, neuro deficits, sneezing, URT

Treatment:

- Surgical removal. Take care not to rupture larvae, as severe reactions often occur.
- Antiparasitic, antimicrobial / antifungal recommended

New World Screwworm—*Cochliomyia hominivorax* fly larvae



Adult fly: house fly sized, orange/red eyes, green/blue metallic body with 3 vertical lines. Females only mate once. (21d cycle)



Eggs (24-48hrs) : Long, clear, laid in an organized manner in an open wound or mucous membrane.



Larvae (5-7d): Up to 1.5 cm

L1 + L2 stages. "Screw" themselves down into healthy tissue, eating and causing extensive damage. Long, white and tapered, with encircling black spines and a 2 black tracheal tubes at one end.

L3: Drops off animal and burrows into the ground to pupate.

Pupae (6-8d): Reddish/brown

Signs:

- Feed on living tissue of any warm-blooded animal
- Foul stench, maggots in open wounds/body openings, bloody discharge, wound grows over time, multiple maggots/lesions
- Often co-infected



Top: Screwworm Larvae
Bottom: Bot Fly Larvae



Utah Screwworm
Suspect Report Form

Sampling

When in doubt, sample and call the State Veterinarian.

- 1 container/animal
- Collect maggots from all life stages
- Cover in Isopropyl alcohol
- Send to NVSL Parasitology in Ames, IA
- Submit with a [5-38 form](#)

Free sampling kits available upon request