

Blow Fly Metamorphosis

Fact 1: Blow flies are attracted to dead bodies and often arrive within minutes of the death of an animal. They have a complete life cycle that consists of egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages.

1st – Adult flies lay eggs on the carcass especially at wound areas or around the openings in the body such as the nose, eyes, ears, anus, etc.

2nd – Eggs hatch into larva (maggots) in 12-24 hours.

3rd– Larvae continue to grow and molt (shed their exoskeletons) as they pass through the various instar stages.

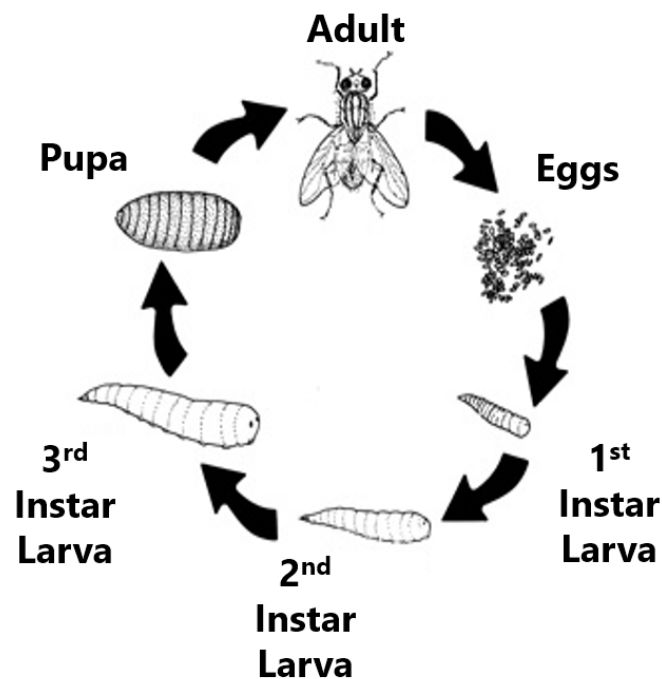
1st Instar - 5 mm long after 1.8 days

2nd Instar - 10 mm long after 2.5 days

3rd Instar – 14-16 mm long after 4-5 days

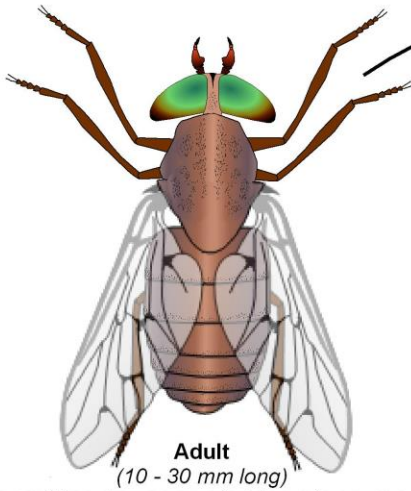
4th – The larvae (17 mm) develop into pupa after burrowing in surrounding soil.

5th – Adult flies emerge from pupa cases after 6-8 days.



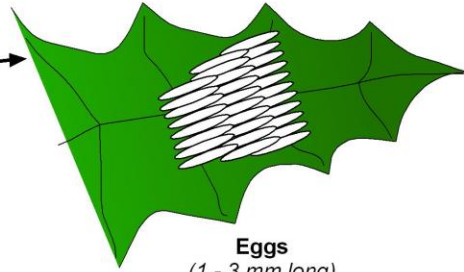
Fact 2: It takes approximately 14-16 days from egg to adult depending on the temperatures and humidity levels at the location of the body.

Horsefly Metamorphosis



Adult
(10 - 30 mm long)

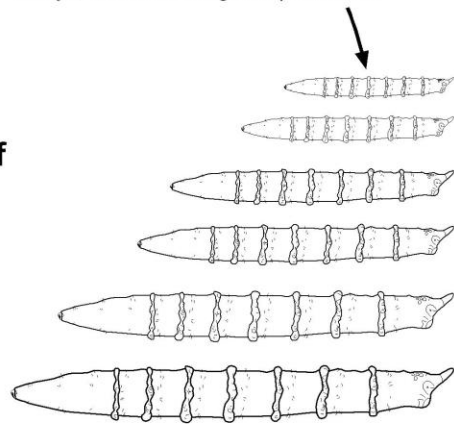
Male and females emerge in late spring-summer, depending on the species.
Males and females feed on nectar and mate.
Females feed on blood and develop eggs.



Eggs
(1 - 3 mm long)

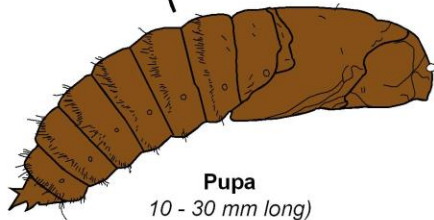
Laid in a single mass of 100 - 800 eggs.
Eggs of many species laid on the underside of leaves.
Eggs hatch in 2 - 3 days; first larval stage drops off leaf.

Life Cycle of Horse Flies



Larvae
(10 - 30 mm long)

Larvae of most species develop in wet habitats.
Number of larval stages range from 6 - 13 (only 6 are shown).
Last stage larva 10 - 30 mm long, depending on species.
Last stage larva over-winters; molts to pupa the following spring.



Pupa
(10 - 30 mm long)

Pupal stage is completed in 1 - 3 weeks.
Pupa is 10 - 30 mm long, depending on species.

