

MYIASIS IN A DOG IN UMBRIA BY *SARCOPHAGA HAEMORRHOIDALIS* (FALLEN) (DIPTERA:SARCOPHAGIDAE): A FLY INFECTING ALSO MAN.

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The tropism of *Sarcophaga haemorrhoidalis* (*Bercaea cruentata*) for organic material as a substrate for its oviposition and its capacity to produce accidental myiasis have been worldwide well-known for long. Reported herein is a case of a eight-years-old, black haired Schnauzer dog, which, further to a slight lesion due to a bite, was attacked by some flies of the genus *Sarcophaga* on its hind left leg. The dog showed a lameness of third degree, pains in the tarsal-metatarsal site and strong smell of necrosis. It needed a general anesthesia and a trichotomy to allow to ascertain the seriousness of its wounds. There were seven fistulae directed towards the distal area of its leg, in the metatarsal and digital site. A number of 362 very active larvae at the I, II, III stages of *S. haemorrhoidalis*, were present, tending to penetrate deeply into its tissues any time we tried to remove them. It was necessary, therefore, to open some lesions surgically to reach the insects more easily. We washed the leg locally with sterilised saline solution and iodate products, but we did not want to suture the wounds, in order to be able to effect additional inspections and consequently, to remove all those larvae, mainly at the I stage, that had remained inside, after the first surgical operation. The recovery was reached after twelve days of hospitalisation, during which a continuative therapy with antibiotic (penicillin and streptomycin) and antinflammatory agents had been carried out. The fact that larvae removed from the animal were at different developmental stages implied a larviposition by a lot of flies, at rather closer times. The adults hatched in laboratory conditions from mature larvae at the III stage in 19 days at 31°C and 80% R.H. The adults could posit larvae at the I stage even the day after their emergence. At the same conditions, those tiny larvae reached the III stage in just three days. Although the present case can be considered as just one of the many serious instances that are yearly recorded worldwide, it represents an interesting example of the olfactory capacity of these flies to smell cutaneous secretions, also when the skin is only slightly altered. From a sanitary point of view, this fly represents a danger also for humans, mainly in hospital divisions, where old patients or children are forced, because of a disease, to remain motionless for long. The subsequent larval aggressions in closer times show that once these adult parasites have opened their way of a cutaneous penetration, they tend to colonise the host, causing, very shortly, more and more serious parasitical conditions, often leading the host to death, and changing the substrate into the putrescent organic material that is usually their specific development site.