



Phorid Fly

Flies of the family Phoridae

Description

Adults: Adults are 3 mm (0.125 inches) long. Also called "humpback flies" or "scuttle flies" or "coffin flies". Phorid flies resemble biting blackflies because of their humpbacked appearance and small head, however, they do not bite. Typically tan to dark brown in color with a humpback or severely arched thorax from the side. They have dark colored eyes and their wings have 2 heavily sclerotized veins toward the leading edge while the remainder of the veins are lighter in appearance and not connected.

Life Cycle

The reproductive potential of fruit flies is quite high. Females can lay upwards of 500 eggs in her lifetime and the entire life cycle, from egg to adult, can be completed in about 25 days in warm temperatures. Eggs are laid directly on moist food sources and under average room temperature, the eggs hatch into larvae within a day or 2. Larvae grow for about 1 - 2 weeks, crawling to a dry area to pupate, followed by a pupation period of 1 - 2 weeks. Pupae have respiratory horns that allow the pupae to breathe even when slightly submerged. Adults only live for a few days unless relative humidity levels are above 70% where they can live up to 9 days.

Damage and Detection

Phorid flies are serious pests in all types of food manufacturing facilities. They feed primarily on moist, decaying, organic food items including dead animals, broken sewer lines, residue in trash cans and in the slime in drains. Infestations can be identified by numerous adult insects flying around a food source or from the maggots infesting decaying food. In heavy infestations, pupae can be found some distance from the food source when the larvae migrate away to find a dry, dark, and safe place to pupate. Fruit fly/Phorid fly traps can be helpful in early detection and management of phorid fly populations.

Corresponding Products from Insects Limited

- 12 x 15 ml Bottles with Liquid Attractant (IL-1520)

QUICK SCAN

	SIZE / LENGTH
	Adult 0.02 - .2 inches (.5 - 6 mm) Eggs 0.02 inch (0.5 mm)
COLOR RANGE	
Adult	Dark brown/tan thorax with a dark brown with light stripes on the upper half of the abdomen
LIFE CYCLE	
Females	Lay upwards of 500 eggs
Egg to Adult	in as little as 25 days
FEEDING HABITS	
Larvae and adults are attracted to dead and decaying matter, moist organic material, slime in humidifiers, and broken sewer pipes.	
INFESTATION SIGNS	
Adult flies can be seen flying around a food source or around light sources. Maggots will be found infesting dead animals or decaying food.	
METAMORPHOSIS	
Phorid flies have a complete metamorphosis that goes from egg to larva to pupa to adult	

Phorid Fly Monitoring Guidelines

Lure

Red liquid concentrates specifically tested and designed to attract adult Fruit Flies and Phorid flies.

Lure Storage

Keep unopened bottles in cool storage less than 16°C (60°F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 24 months or at room temperature for 12 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards.

Trap Designs Used with Lure

15 ml bottle with a screw on cap. Liquid is included with each bottle and the devices are ready to use.

Trap Placement Techniques

Liquid food attractants can be out placed year-round but are especially recommend during warmer months when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). Liquid food attractant traps like the GreenWay Fruit Fly Trap are most effective at capturing fruit flies and Phorid flies alike. In areas such as a kitchen or home, place one or two traps per room. In commercial areas, such as warehouses or retail stores, place liquid food attractants 7.5–15 m (25–50 feet) apart to determine the presence or absence of fruit flies and/or Phorid flies. Increase liquid food attractant density to 4.5–7.5 m (15 – 25 feet) apart to help locate source of flies. Fruit fly/Phorid fly liquid food attractants are best utilized in areas that store canned foods, fruit, vegetables, beverages, and areas that prepare food or around trash areas, drains or any areas containing moist organic material.

Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when bottle is filled with insects or dries out. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

Fun Facts

- Similar species include fruit flies (*Drosophila*) and fungus gnats (*Sciaroidea*)
- Phorid flies initiate flight at temperatures above 15°C (60°F).
- Phorid flies play a big role as post-mortem indicators in forensic entomology