

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: "Golden Dung Fly - 5 Photos" by VonShawn is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Common Name: Golden Dung Fly

Scientific Name: *Scatophaga stercoraria*

Order and Family: Diptera ; Scathophagidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	7-9mm	Hairy, bright yellow-golden to greyish in color
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):

Adults - Sponging - with "teeth" to cut the membrane and access insect juices

Larvae - Mouth hooks

Host/s:

Larvae feed on dung whereas adults feed primarily on other flies

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):

Decomposer and predator

This species assists in the breaking down of feces and dung of various animals. As adults, they capture and feed on other flies, narrowing down the pest fly population.

Can also be found in crime scenes where excrement or any gut contents are exposed.

References:

Species *Scathophaga stercoraria* - Golden Dung Fly. (n.d.). Retrieved November 14, 2020, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/8320>

Byrd, J. H., & Tomberlin, J. K. (2020). Forensic entomology: The utility of arthropods in legal investigations. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group. pg 34