

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Janet Graham, Flickr

**Common Name:** Lesser House Fly or Little House Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Fannia canicularis*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Fanniidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.8 - 2 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Small and white.</li><li>● Pair of dorsal flanges.</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1.5 mm (first instar) 3 mm (second instar) 6 - 7 mm (third instar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Maggot-like with wispy spines.</li><li>● Early instars white, later developing a light brown color.</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	3.5 - 6 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Similar in appearance to the typical house fly, but smaller.</li><li>● Pair of yellow halteres.</li><li>● Thorax with three longitudinal stripes.</li><li>● Abdomen yellowish with brown markings.</li></ul>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Darkened brown.</li><li>● Similar in appearance to the third instar larvae.</li></ul>

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

**Host/s:** Larvae feed on decomposing organic material. Food sources include dung, rotting fruit and vegetables, rotting wood and fungi, nests of insects, birds, and mammals, dead animals and decaying seaweed. The presence of larvae on corpses is helpful for crime scene investigations. Larvae can also be found feeding in feces, including cow, pig, horse, calf, and human.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Larvae have been implicated in cases of myiasis (infestation of wounds). Adults are potential carriers of disease as they often visit carrion and feces. In addition to serious health concerns, adults are considered nuisance pests indoors.

**References:**

Deal, A. S. (1967). *The effect of temperature and moisture on the development of Fannia canicularis (L.) and Fannia femoralis (Stein), (Diptera: Muscidae)* (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University)

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Steve, P. C. (1960). Biology and Control of the Little House Fly, *Fannia canicularis*, in Massachusetts1. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 53(6), 999-1004. doi:10.1093/jee/53.6.999