

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Hister beetle; Clown beetle

Scientific Name: *Hister spp.* *Saprinus spp.*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Histeridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	1-10 mm	Shiny, metallic and either black or green
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host: Typically found on animal dung or carcasses. Frequently associated with corpses and can be found hiding underneath a body. Adults and larvae feed on fly larvae and pupae.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Histerids are considered a forensically important insect that can be used for determining post mortem interval. They tend to colonize corpses in almost any stage of decay when there are other insects present for them to feed on. The genus *Carcinops* of Histeridae are used in biological control of flies in poultry operations.

References:

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