

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Common Green Bottle Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Lucilia sericata*

**Order and Family:** Diptera, Calliphoridae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1.5 mm	Pale yellow and elongate
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> instar- 14 mm	Deep cream color with a tinge of purple; cylindrical and slim
<b>Adult</b>	6-9.5 mm	Metallic blue-green, yellow-green, green or bronze coloring
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	9-10 mm	Reddish brown, light brown or black in color

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larvae with mouth hooks; adults with sponging mouthpart at the end of proboscis

**Host/s:** Typically, larvae are found on decaying animal tissue or carrion. Sometimes can be found on animal feces and other decaying substrates.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** This species is usually one of the first to colonize an animal carcass and the larvae feed on the decaying tissue. Thus, it is an important species in forensic cases and both larvae and pupae can be used to calculate post mortem interval. This species is also used extensively in maggot therapy to clean infected wounds.

Note that this species can be a pest in certain situations. This fly is associated with fly strike, particularly with sheep, which is where it gets the other common name, sheep blow fly. It can cause secondary myiasis by laying eggs in open wounds, mainly in animals but cases of human myiasis have been reported. It is said that this fly can anticipate death and seek out dying animals.

**References:**

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Hall, D. G. (1948). *Blowflies of North America*. Thomas Say Foundation; London.