

## Pest Profile



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Alan R. Walker, 2012 on Wiki Commons

**Common Name:** Sheep ked, "sheep tick"

**Scientific Name:** *Melophagus ovinus*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Hippoboscidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		<b>Single larva retained in utero and fed internally by mother, goes through 3 instars then prepupa stage. Mature larva or prepupa deposited on sheep.</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>4-10 mm</b>	<b>Wingless fly, cream to reddish brown hairy body; abdomen often pale. Has large claws.</b>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		<b>Pupa has dark hard shell, glued to fleece. (Maa, 1969)</b>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larva is in utero; Adult: Piercing-sucking

**Host/s:** Obligate ectoparasite on domestic sheep *Ovis aries*

**Description of Medical Importance (Larvae and adults):** Adults drink one blood meal daily, cause anemia in lambs, damage fleece and hides due to allergic reactions (McDermid et al 2003) and transmit bluetongue virus (Leudke et al 1965).

**References:**

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McDermitt, S., Stephan, A., Bennett, A. (2003). ["Sheep Ked \*Melophagus ovinus\*"](#). West Lafayette, IN, USA: Purdue University Animal Science Sheep Research and Education Center.

Luedke, A. J., Jochim M. M., & Bowne J. G. (1965). ["Preliminary Bluetongue Transmissions with the Sheep Ked \*Melophagus Ovinus\* \(L.\)"](#). *Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science*. Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. **29** (9): 229–231. [PMC 1494446](#)<sup>3</sup>. [PMID 4221988](#)

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***Melophagus ovinus***