

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Green Bottle Fly

Scientific Name: *Lucilia sericata* (Meigen)

Order and Family: Diptera: Calliphoridae

Size and Appearance: Adult *Lucilia sericata* are about 8-10 mm in length and metallic green to copper green in color. The flies feature red eyes, sponging mouthparts, and bristle-like hairs covering the body. Maggots are smooth, white, 1-18 mm in length, leg and eyeless, and have hooks at the head region.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.5 mm in length	Pale yellowish-white, oval, eggs are laid on larval food source. 2,373 can be laid by one female.
Larva/Nymph	11-18 mm in length depending on instar	White, cylindrical, hooks on head, legless, eyeless, 3 instars.
Adult	8-10 mm long	Metallic green or copper green in color. Red eyes, sponging mouthparts, underside white in color.
Pupa (if applicable)	9-10 mm long	Pupal case is hardened, reddish-brown, and consists of last instar larval skin.

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

Host /s: *L. sericata* feed on animal carcasses, manure, decaying vegetation, and garbage. Generalist feeders.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Green bottle flies are nuisance pests that are attracted to homes due to warmer temperatures, dog manure, and dead rodents. Due to feeding habits, likely they carry and transmit pathogens of E. coli, cholera, plague, tuberculosis, and tularemia. They are commonly used in maggot therapy and in solving forensic cases.

References:

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