

**Blow flies** ■**Scientific name:**

(Diptera: Calliphoridae) several species

**Facts:** These flies are about the size of a house fly or a little larger, but many of them are brightly colored in green or blue. They arrive at a dead animal, lay eggs and the maggots feed on the dead flesh. Most of them are scavengers and some of the larvae can also feed on excrement. A few species in this family have been reared under septic conditions and the larvae are used for treating certain diseases.

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**Common Cattle Grub**  

**Scientific name:** *Hypoderma lineatum* (Villers)  
(Diptera: Oestridae)

**Facts:** The common cattle grub or heel fly is a hairy fly 1/2 inch long, or about the size of a honey bee. The front, sides, and back of the head are covered with yellowish white hairs. Adult mouthparts are small (reduced). Larvae have hooks as mouthparts for tearing flesh. Larvae tunnel through the bodies of cattle and form lumps in the backs of the cattle before adult flies emerge.



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## Crane Flies ■

**Scientific name:**  
(Diptera: Tipulidae)

**Facts:** There are literally thousands of species of crane flies in North America. They are conspicuously long legged and commonly attracted to lights. Larvae of crane flies generally grow in damp or wet habitats. Many people think that these are large mosquitoes, however, they cannot bite.

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**Deer flies** ■

**Scientific name:** *Chrysops* sp.  
(Diptera: Tabanidae)

**Facts:** Deer flies are biting flies with a pattern in the wing. They are larger than a house fly but smaller than most horse flies. They can bite human, pets, and livestock. Larvae are large maggots usually in slow moving water where they feed on organic matter. Adult flies can be found around lakes and ponds. However, they are also a pest of livestock in rangeland where the adults like to roost in cedar trees. In Texas, they are sometimes called "cedar flies".

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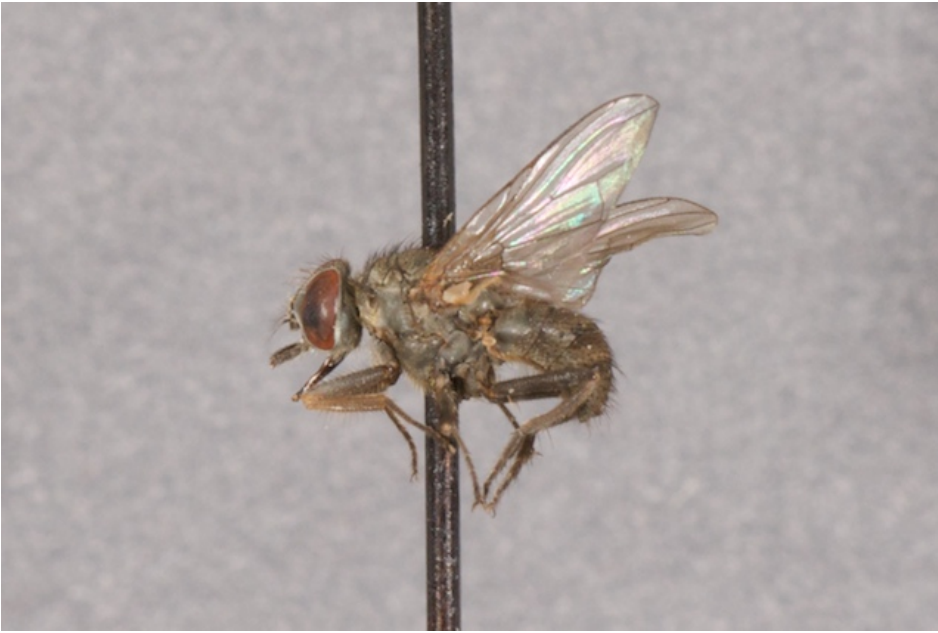
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**Flesh flies** ■**Scientific name:**

(Diptera: Sarcophagidae)

**Facts:** These flies look much like a house fly and most are blackish with grey stripes. Larvae usually feed on some sort of animal material. There are scavengers on dead animals, parasites of other insects, and a few that are parasites of vertebrates.

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**Horn Fly** 

**Scientific name:** *Haematobia irritans*  
(Linnaeus)  
(Diptera: Muscidae)

**Facts:** The horn fly looks like the house fly but is only about half as large. Adults have piercing-sucking mouthparts and suck blood. Adults rest with their heads pointed downward on the backs of livestock. Larvae have hooks in their mouthparts and feed in cattle manure.

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**Horse Fly** ■

**Scientific name:** *Tabanus* sp.  
(Diptera: Tabanidae)

**Facts:** Horse flies suck blood from livestock. Some species are only 3/4 inch long. The common black horse fly attains a length of 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches.



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**House Fly** ■

**Scientific name:** *Musca domestica* Linnaeus  
(Diptera: Muscidae)

**Facts:** House fly adults are 1/4 to 5/16 inch long. The top part of the thorax is dusty gray and contains four equally broad stripes running from front to back. The fourth wing vein makes a sharp bend to the outside and almost meets the third at the wing tip. Adults have sponging and sucking mouthparts, while larvae have hooks in their mouthparts for tearing.

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**Mosquito** ■

**Scientific name:** Family Culicidae  
(Diptera: Culicidae)

**Facts:** Mosquitoes are slender-bodied, long-legged insects, less than 1/2 inch long, with delicate wings fringed with scales. Males have bushy antennae. Mosquitoes have long, slender sucking mouthparts. Only adult females suck blood; males feed on nectar.

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**Robber flies** ■

**Scientific name:** several species  
(Diptera: Asilidae)

**Facts:** Robber flies are very common insects especially in the summer. They are active predators that catch insects on the wing. They often sit on a conspicuous perch and fly out to catch insects passing by. A few of the robber flies mimic bumblebees and are very difficult to distinguish without a close inspection. Of course, they have only two wings like all flies while bumble bees have four wings. Robber flies also have a concave area on the top of the head between the eyes.

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**Sheep keds** ■**Scientific name:**

(Diptera: Hippoboscidae)

**Facts:** Sheep keds are wingless even as adults. They feed on sheep taking blood meals. They can be found deep in the wool right next to the skin.

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**Syrphid Fly** ■

**Scientific name:** many species  
(Diptera: Syrphidae)

**Facts:** Syrphid flies are sometimes called flower flies. They are normally brightly colored in yellows and blacks. Many people mistake these for bees. Larvae of syrphid flies occur in a variety of habitats. Many of them feed on aphids, some occur in sewage and others in decaying wood.



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