

it is known that certain of the flies of the family Cordyluridae prey upon insects which they capture, the common yellow coprophilous *S. stercoraria* is not usually regarded, so far as I am aware, as a predaceous insect. Yet the observations recently made and forwarded to me (30 Oct. '13) by Mr. George E. Sanders, in charge of the Dominion Entomological Field Station at Bridgetown, N.S., would indicate that this common species destroys, in the aggregate, no small number of other Diptera, especially Muscid flies, for which it appears to display a preference.

Specimens of *S. stercoraria* were found and taken by Mr. Sanders capturing *Musca domestica* L., *Calliphora erythrocephala* Mg., *Stomoxys calcitrans* L., *Fannia canicularis* L., *Pollenia rudis* Fab., and *Orthellia cornicina* Fab.\* After seizing their victims, they wrapped their legs around them and the neck of the victim was then pierced from below by thrusts of the proboscis and sucked for a short time. The body was afterwards turned over and the proboscis inserted between the abdominal segments, in which position the fly continued to feed for a long time. In some cases, for example, *Pollenia rudis*, the victim's head was completely broken off.

*S. stercoraria* was also seen to capture *Bibio longipes* Loew, and a female of *S. merdaria* Fab. was caught preying upon *Scatops notata* L.

Mr. Sanders reports that *Scatophaga* has been seen catching *Musca domestica* on the porch of a house, and, when observing the flies attracted by the sugar bait at the laboratory, it was a common sight to see *M. domestica* captured by *Scatophaga*. A "yellow fly," probably this species, was reported to him as capturing and eating mosquitoes.

The preference of *Scatophaga* for Muscid flies is noticeable. This may be due to the fact that excrement has an attraction for both prey and victims. *S. stercoraria* breeds in excrement and commonly frequents it; *M. domestica* and certain of its allies have similar habits. The significant fact, however, is that *Scatophaga* preys upon *M. domestica* and other common Muscids, not only when they are visiting excrementous matter, but in other places, and these facts place *Scatophaga* in the category of decidedly useful insects.

---

\*I am indebted to Mr. C. W. Johnson for assistance in determination.