
LUCILIA SERICATA MEIGEN ATTACKING A LIVE CALF.*

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While walking through a pasture field at Strathroy, Ont., on July 1st, my attention was directed to a well-bred herd of young Holstein cattle. There were among them twelve calves from five to six weeks old. On looking them over, I noticed that one of the calves had a sickly appearance and was extremely thin. This calf appeared to be suffering from an acute attack of white scours, and all known remedies seemed to be useless. It was becoming weaker although still able to run around, and was very keen for its milk. On July 4th, when I saw the calf again, I was surprised to find the hind extremities, especially around the base of the tail, a mass of maggots. A closer examination showed that the maggots were most abundant around the anus and base of the tail where some of them had eaten into the flesh to the depth of about a quarter of an inch. No adult flies were observed though a watch was kept for some time. Learning the calf's condition, the owner killed it immediately and a piece of the infested flesh was brought to the laboratory. On July 12th the larvæ appeared to be thriving, but as other work compelled an absence of about a fortnight from the laboratory at Strathroy, most of the larvæ died through want of food during this absence. Two larvæ pupated on August 5th, and on August 19th two adults of *Lucilia sericata* Meigen emerged. The specimens were dwarfed owing to the larvæ having suffered from lack of nutrition.

The adult flies had no doubt been attracted by the filthy hind quarters of the sickly calf and had oviposited there. Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, to whom the specimens were submitted, states that *L. sericata* is the chief fly which produces the maggots on the backs and hind quarters of sheep in Great Britain, as MacDougall has shown. Such a case of myiasis occurring in cattle, however, is very unusual.

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