

This pest will be at once distinguished from the ordinary cattle-fly by its smaller size, greater activity and the characteristic habit of gathering in clusters upon the horns of cattle, particularly upon the upper side. When very abundant the flies form a more or less complete ring around the horn extending sometimes from two to four inches from the base towards the tip, as shown in figure 2.

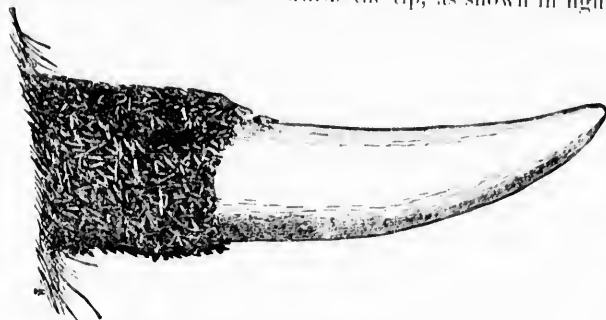


Fig. 2. Cow-horn showing band of resting flies—reduced.

The clustering upon the horns seems to be peculiar to this species, for where the common Cattle-fly occurs with it in large numbers upon the same animals, I have never found specimens in the thick clusters upon the horns. Neither does the Horn-fly, like the Cattle-fly, bite horses and other animals; but seems to confine its attacks to cattle. It may not be amiss to mention here that no injury whatever results from this habit of gathering on the horns, the flies merely resorting to the horns as a resting place from which they cannot be easily dislodged by the animal. They also congregate on the neck and at the base of the tail. The flies assume two characteristic positions, one while feeding when the wings are slightly elevated and held out from the body, as shown in fig. 1. *α*, the other while resting, when the wings lie nearly flat down the back, with the tips only slightly separated. It is in this resting position that they are always found on the horns.

Cattle of all breeds are subject to the attacks of this pest, but there is very great difference in the susceptibility to injury of various breeds and individual animals according to their temperament and the texture of their skins. While feeding, the flies work their way down through the hairs so as to reach the skin of their victim, but they are extremely agile and quickly take flight at the