

A CASE OF INTESTINAL MYIASIS BY *MUSCA DOMESTICA* IN A LABORATORY ASSISTANT

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Recently, infection of the alimentary tract by larvae of *Musca domestica* was detected, adding another case of this type to a long list already recorded in the literature. Riley and Johannsen (1938), Herms (1939), and Matheson (1950) report that cases of intestinal infection by maggots of this species are numerous, although this phenomenon is far from an everyday occurrence. The victim, doing post-graduate study and serving as laboratory assistant in the Department of Biology, suffered constant abdominal pain for three days. Other symptoms were nausea and irritability. After three days of self-treatment with Pepto-Bismol, the patient resorted to purging and after the fourth day, passed with the purged stool ten or more larvae which appeared non-motile and rather contracted. The larvae were identified as second instars of *Musca domestica*. In subsequent stools no additional larvae were observed.

The mode and source of infection in this case are not known with certainty although two possibilities have been considered. One possibility is that the victim, an avid cigar smoker, may have laid down his cigar with its moist end, somewhere in the laboratory, while working. Upon retrieving his cigar later he may have introduced fly ova deposited on the damp tip into his mouth. Adding to this possibility is the fact that the writer has been rearing flies in the laboratory for a research project. Occasionally they escape and are seen about the laboratory. The other possibility is that dishes of soft candy in the room of the victim's home may have stimulated the ovipositing instinct of a female fly.

Interestingly enough this is not the first experience of this kind for the victim. He reports that as a serviceman in 1944 on the South Pacific island of Emirau he passed fly larvae for three days, eventually being hospitalized. These larvae were large, possibly those of the calliphorid *Chrysomya megacephala*, a common form in the South Pacific.

REFERENCES

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Matheson, R. 1950. Medical entomology. Second ed. Comstock Pub. Co., Ithaca, N. Y.
Riley, W. A., and O. A. Johannsen. 1938. Medical entomology. Second ed. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York.