

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Blue fly

Order: Diptera (True flies)

Family: Calliphoridae (Blow flies)

Genus: Calliphora (or Lucilia)

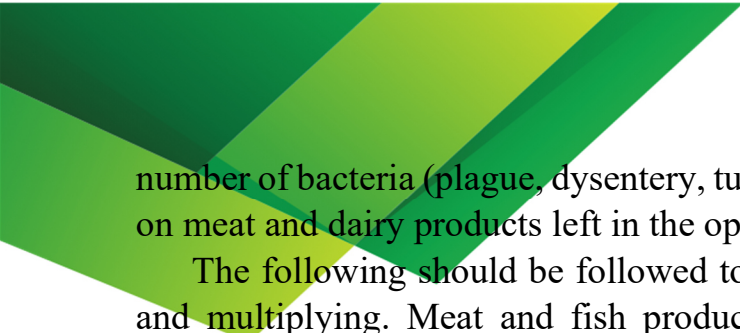
Species: Calliphora vicina (Blue bottle fly)

Blue flies (scientific name: *Calliphora vicina* or *Calliphora vomitoria*) are one of the most common types of flies in nature. They are easily distinguished from other flies by their bright, metallic blue body. These insects play a role in the ecosystem as both “cleaners” and, in some cases, pests. Blue flies are slightly larger than house flies (about 10-14 mm). Their most characteristic feature is the bright metallic blue or dark blue color of their abdomen and thorax. They are large, usually reddish or brown in color. Their body is covered with black, stiff hairs.



These flies reproduce incredibly quickly. Their life cycle consists of four stages: egg, larva (worm), pupa, and adult. The female blue fly usually lays her eggs on rotting meat, carrion, or exposed food. They can lay more than 150 eggs at a time. The white larvae that hatch from the eggs begin feeding immediately. They play a major role in the decomposition of organic matter. Depending on the temperature, they develop from eggs to adult flies in just 2-3 weeks.

They eat and decompose animal corpses in nature and help clean up the environment. In forensics, bluefly larvae are used to determine the time of death. It is possible to tell exactly when an animal died by looking at the stage of development of the larva. Since they walk on garbage dumps and carcasses, they carry a large



number of bacteria (plague, dysentery, tuberculosis, etc.) on their feet. They lay eggs on meat and dairy products left in the open, making them unusable in a short time.

The following should be followed to prevent blueflies from entering the house and multiplying. Meat and fish products should never be stored outdoors, they should always be placed in the refrigerator or in closed containers. The mouths of garbage cans should always be kept closed and emptied frequently. Putting fine metal or plastic nets on windows significantly reduces their entry. Blueflies can smell from several kilometers away. The smell of decaying organic matter in particular attracts them like a magnet.

