



How does SCREW WORM FLY spread?

Although the pest has not yet reached Australia, the adult screw worm fly could enter Australia in a storm front, arrive on a boat or as maggots in an existing wound on animals or people arriving from countries to our north.



What do I do if I see SCREW WORM FLY?

If you spot an animal that you suspect could have screw worm fly, isolate the animal immediately. Call a vet or a government animal health officer.

Check the herd or flock or other animals that may have come in contact with the suspect animal. Don't forget to check working dogs, domestic pets or even co-workers.

The spread of screw worm fly is rapid if it is not detected early.



Who do I report it to?

If you spot anything unusual report it immediately. Contact your local vet, stock inspector or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888.

Early detection is important. Containment and eradication programs can be started before screw worm fly can spread into other areas.

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE
1800 675 888**

Further Information

If you require further information about screw worm fly visit

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/

or in the disease library at:

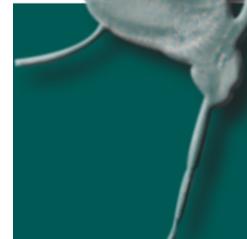
www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/diseases.cfm



SCREW WORM FLY



**SCREW WORM FLY
FREEDOM ASSURANCE
PROGRAM**



Courtesy of Jim Mitchell, Roseworthy Qld, QUT & F.

Courtesy of Philip Spalbury

Beware the killer maggot: SCREW WORM FLY

An outbreak of screw worm fly in Australia could have devastating effects on our northern livestock production, particularly the cattle and sheep industries but will also have a damaging effect on Australia's reputation as being a provider of high-quality and safe product.

Screw worm fly is considered to be the most serious exotic pest threatening Australia's livestock industries and public health. Screw worm fly is widespread in a number of our neighbouring countries to our north particularly Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

What is SCREW WORM FLY

Screw worm fly is an insect parasite of warm-blooded animals (this includes people and birds). Its eggs hatch to become flesh eating maggots that invade all types of wounds or moist openings on animals and people. In severe cases it can even cause death.

The screw worm fly lays its eggs on the dry edge of all types of wounds including tick bites, scratches, healing umbilical cords on new born animals and wounds caused by dehorning or castration. The damage is done by the eggs hatching and the maggots burrowing deep into the wound. Screw worm fly can only survive in the healthy tissue of warm-blooded animals. When the maggots mature, they exit the wound and drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil. Their skin hardens and forms a protective layer while it develops and emerges as an adult fly. This process can be completed within 20 days. The spread of screw worm fly is rapid if it is not detected early.

Screw worm fly laying its eggs in a wound



Screw worm fly egg masses (white) deposited in a wound



The hatching of the screw worm fly eggs into maggots



How do I spot SCREW WORM FLY

Screw worm fly looks like an average sized blue blowfly and is found in almost all tropical countries except Australia. It is related to the blowfly that causes fly-strike in Australian sheep.

The screw worm fly maggots appear whitish to cream in colour and have bands of dark spines growing on each body segment giving them the appearance of a screw. They grow to approximately 15mm long and 3mm in diameter.

In the wound, the maggots stay bunched together while feeding, their heads are down and tails are up showing two dark spots on the end of each tail. This bunching causes the wound to become larger as the maggots grow. The wound usually emits a strong pungent, sickly smell.

Shoulder wound infested by screw worm fly



Navel of a braham calf infested by screw worm fly



screw worm fly