

RESEARCH NOTE

***Cochliomyia hominivorax*
(Coquerel, 1858) and
Phaenicia sericata (Meigen,
1826) Parasiting Domestic
Animals in Buenos Aires
and Vicinities (Diptera,
Calliphoridae)**

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The role of blow flies species as myiasis producers has increasingly concerned New World entomologists during the last decades (JH Guimarães et al. 1983 *Rev Bras Zool* 1: 239-416). In South America, DL Baumgartner and B Greenberg (1983 *Rev Bras Biol* 43: 215-221) documented the occurrence of *Cochliomyia hominivorax* in the Districts of Pasco and Junín, Perú, warning of its potential importance from medical and veterinary points of view. Moreover, *Phaenicia sericata* has been recognized in Sudan, South Africa, and Australia as primary myiasis producer on domestic animals (Baumgartner, Greenberg 1985 *Ann Entomol Soc Am* 78: 565-587). A detailed account of the medical and veterinary importance of this cosmopolitan species is given by SV Peris and D Gonzalez

Mora (1991 *Bol R Soc Esp Hist Nat* 87: 187-207).

In Yucatán Peninsula and during the rainy season, myiasis produced by *C. hominivorax* was mostly detected on dogs, and to a lesser extent on livestock (DB Thomas 1987 *J Med Entomol* 24: 498-502).

The occurrence of *C. hominivorax* and *P. sericata* parasiting dogs and a cat, respectively, is recorded for the first time in Buenos Aires and vicinities.

Screwworms were taken from myiasis wounds from 15 dogs and a cat, which were seen in a veterinarian clinic in Olivos, Buenos Aires, Argentina, between February 1st and April 30th, 1989.

All screwworms collected were third instar larvae. The specimens parasiting the 15 dogs (11 males; 4 females) were identified as *C. hominivorax*. The three larvae taken from a male cat were identified as *P. sericata*. Myiasis wounds on dogs were seen on the head (41.2%), the rump (23.5%), and the genital region (17.6%); only two wounds were located on the legs (11.8%) and one on the neck (5.9%). From the total recorded wounds, 62.5% attacked natural openings. The averaged number of larvae per dog's wound was 46.0 (± 21.02). All animals were from the city or suburbs of Buenos Aires.

P. sericata was formerly detected in human wounds in Buenos Aires (JC Mariluis, EF Guarnera 1983 *Rev Soc Ent Argentina* 42: 143-147); therefore, the finding of this species on a cat is the first reference documented for domestic animals. This cosmopolitan species is notoriously abundant within urban areas close to Buenos Aires (JC Mariluis, JA Schnack 1989 *EOS* 65: 93-101) and co-dominant with the recently introduced Palearctic *Chrysomya albiceps* (Wiedemann, 1819) in the "Area Platense" (Mariluis, Schnack 1986 *Ecosur* 12/13: 81-91). So, we expect further findings of *P. sericata* in adjacent geographic locations and other domestic hosts in similar areas. The obligate biontophagous, *C. hominivorax*, is a relatively rare species in South America. However, this was the only species recorded on dogs during this study. Probably its perceived rareness is due to improper sample procedures, e.g., the use of either rotten beef or human faeces as baits.