









Visual Comparison: New World Screwworm vs. Other Flies

Stage	New World Screwworm Fly (<i>Cochliomyia hominivorax</i>)	House (<i>Musca domestica</i>) & Green Bottle Flies (<i>Lucilia sericata</i>)
Fly	 <p>[1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metallic blue-green body, ~8-10 mm in length • Large, orange eyes  <p>[2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three dark vertical stripes on back (thorax) 	 <p>[3]</p>  <p>[4]</p>
Larva	 <p>[1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encircling bands of dark, pointed spines on each body segment • “Screw-like” appearance • ~6.5 – 17 mm long  <p>[1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp, dark mouth hooks used to tear flesh of host 	 <p>[3]</p>  <p>[4]</p>

Note: this is a quick reference tool for veterinarians and other animal health professionals that have identified fly larvae in a live host. For definitive diagnosis of NWS, larvae should be sent to a specialist. Report findings to your State Animal Health Official (SAHO).

Sources:

1. APHIS. [New World Screwworm Photo Gallery](#) [Internet]. APHIS. 2025.
2. Kaufman PE, Wisely SM, Gillett-Kaufman JL. Primary Screwworm *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel) (Insecta: Diptera: Calliphoridae). EDIS. 2016 Sep 6;2016(7):5.
3. University of Florida. [House Fly](#) [Internet]. Ufl.edu. 2024.
4. Sanchez-Arroyo H, Capinera JL. [House fly, *Musca domestica* Linnaeus \(Insecta: Diptera: Muscidae\)](#) [Internet]. edis.ifas.ufl.edu. 2024.