INSECTS OF FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS MEDICO-LEGAL CASES IN TAMILNADU

P. Azhahianambi*, G. Jyothimol, S. Gomathinayagam and Bhaskaran Ravi Latha
Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai-60007, Tamil Nadu

The primary purpose of forensic entomology is to estimate the time since death based on the growth and development of insects of forensic importance. Blow flies are the most common insects
associated with corpses. The present study is based on the insect samples collected from fifteen medico-legal cases in Tamil Nadu. The insect stages were identified based on morphological features and the time since death was also estimated. *Chrysomyia megacephala*, *Chrysomyia rufifacies*, *Sarcophaga* spp and *Musca domestica* life stages were collected from the dead bodies during 2011-2015. *Chrysomyia megacephala* was the most prevalent (73.3%) insects of forensic importance. *C. megacephala* was found equally prevalent in indoor and outdoor conditions. *Chrysomyia rufifacies* was found in only one case in outdoor condition inside a forest. *Sarcophaga* sp and *Musca domestica* were found only in indoor conditions. The time since death was estimated using the standard growth and development conditions of the insects and the weather station reports close to the scene of crime. The estimated time since death from all medico-legal cases ranges from 3 to 10 days.

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