

Taming The Torment of Stomoxys Fly (Stable Fly)

Asif Iqbal¹, Abdul Rehman^{1*}, Haroon Ahmad¹, Muhammad Ahmad¹

1. Riphah International University, Lahore, Pakistan.

*Corresponding Author: abdulrehman957372@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Adult flies of *Stomoxys* relay on the blood of vertebrate host blood for their production and reproduction. Larvae of this fly propagate in waste garbage and manure etc. By using proper techniques, we can control on their larvae. Residual insect killers can be helpful to control this parasite. Proper use of modified traps plays an important role in controlling the production of stable flies.

Introduction:

Stomoxys calcitrans also known as stable fly, biting house fly, dog fly. Unlike most members of the family Muscidae, Stable flies are tiny, biting insects that seem to love bothering humans and animals. They usually hang around places with old and waste, like manure and straw. Identifying features of stable flies include their dark, grayish color and the distinct checkerboard pattern on their abdomen. Their mouthparts are adapted for piercing the skin and sucking blood, making them efficient blood-feeding insects. Unlike many other fly species, stable flies prefer to feed during the daylight hours, adding to their nuisance value. (7)

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF STABLE FLIES

Mostly they are common in areas where livestock and agricultural activities are performed. They are commonly found in horses stables that's why they are also called stable fly. They are known to be aggressive biters, causing discomfort to their hosts. Primarily feed on the blood of mammals like livestock, poultry, and occasionally humans. (3)

Manure is a crucial breeding substrate, and they are often associated with livestock operations. Stable flies mostly breed in decaying organic matter, such as spoiled silage, rotting hay, spoiled grass, and other types of decomposing vegetation. This place can provide good breeding habitat for the growth and production of fly larvae (2).

PREVALENCE

The prevalence of stable flies varies depending on the location and time of year. In general, stable flies are more common in warm, humid climates, and their populations tend to peak in the summer months. (6)

In Pakistan, the prevalence of stable flies is also high, particularly in areas with large livestock populations. A study published in the journal Pakistan Veterinary Journal found that the prevalence of stable flies in dairy farms in Punjab, Pakistan, was 65%.

The prevalence of these flies has good impact on human and animal health. Stable flies can transmit a number of diseases, including anthrax, brucellosis, etc. In animals, stable fly bites can cause skin irritation, anemia, and weight loss. In humans, stable fly bites can cause skin infections and allergic reactions (8).

CONTROL

1. **REGULAR CLEANING** Keep the surroundings clean. Get rid of trash and spilled food. This helps take away the places where stable flies like to lay their eggs. (8)

CONTROL BY NATURAL ENEMIES

Bugs to fight stable flies
We may use wasps that lay eggs on stable fly babies, which can help control their numbers naturally.

2. TAKE CARE OF ANIMAL AREAS

3. **USE OF INSECTICIDES** Use bug sprays made to kill stable flies (As a last option). Not recommended normally.

4. **TARGETING STABLE FLIES AREA** These sites should be targeted during warm afternoon with low pressure or mist blower sprayers.

5. **FLY TRAPS** These traps where flies are a problem can really help. They attract and catch stable flies.

LONG TERM STRATEGIES Animal Husbandry Practices: Livestock management guides, veterinary publications should be preferred.

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