

# Green and Blue Bottle Flies

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The **common green bottle fly** (*Lucilia sericata*) is a common blow-fly found in most areas of the world, and the most well-known of the numerous green bottle fly species. It is 10-14 mm long, slightly larger than a housefly, and has brilliant, metallic, blue-green or golden colouration with black markings. It has black bristle-like hair and three cross-grooves on the thorax. The wings are clear with light brown veins, and the legs and antennae are black. The larvae of the fly are also used for maggot therapy.

The **blue bottle fly** or bottlebee (*Calliphora vomitoria*) is a common blow-fly found in most areas of the world and is the type species for the genus *Calliphora*.

## Description

It is 10-14 mm long, slightly larger than a housefly. The head and thorax are dull gray and the abdomen is bright metallic blue with black markings. Its body and legs are covered with black bristle-like hair. The eyes are red and the wings are clear. The legs and antennae are black.



A female blue bottle fly lays her eggs where she feeds, usually in decaying meat, garbage, or feces. Pale whitish larvae, commonly called maggots, soon hatch from the eggs and immediately begin feeding on the decomposing matter where they were hatched. After a few days of feeding, they are fully grown. At that time they will crawl away to a dry place where they can burrow into soil or similar matter to pupate into tough brown cocoons. After two or three weeks, the adults emerge to mate, beginning the cycle

again. During cold weather, pupae and adults can hibernate until warmer temperatures revive them. They have the ability to smell meat from distances of 7 kilometers away.