

SHEEP BOT FLY, *Oestrus ovis* BIOLOGY, CONTROL,
HISTORY, MORPHOLOGY, OESTRIDAE

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ABSTRACT

Sheep bot fly, *Oestrus ovis* L. is a cosmopolitan pest of sheep. Its serious outbreaks were reported from Formosa in 1915 and Nevada (USA) in 1933. In many of the sheep growing areas, it causes more than 50% infestation, and in USSR, USA, New Zealand and Africa its infestations are reported to be higher than 80%. It also causes ophthalmomyiasis to man. In this paper its geographical distribution, biology, ecology, control and losses caused to sheep industry in various parts of the world are reviewed. A complete bibliography up till 1986 has been given. No work has been done on the life-table analysis and natural enemies. Studies on these lines are warranted.

INTRODUCTION

Sheep nasal bot fly, sheep gad fly, or sheep head grub, *Oestrus ovis* L. is a cosmopolitan pest of sheep, goat and man. The adults cause restless and fear to the animals and the larvae cause excessive nasal discharge, hemorrhage, nasal-catarh and meningitis. Sometimes the animals die because of serious infestation. Larvae of sheep bot fly also cause ophthalmomyiasis to man.

Sheep bot fly is an important pest of sheep in USA, USSR and in many African countries. Its serious outbreaks were reported in Formosa in 1915 [1] and Nevada (USA) in 1933 [2]. Information on its biology, and control measures is fragmentary and scattered in