

New World Screwworm

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New World Screwworm Latest News

Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services reported the first human case of the flesh-eating parasite, the New World screwworm, in the United States.

About New World Screwworm

- Screwworms are a type of **blue-grey blowfly**, typically found in **South America and the Caribbean**.
- The parasites are **named after the screwlike** way they burrow into the tissue.
- Screwworms — specifically females — are **attracted to and lay eggs** on and in open wounds or another entry point like a **nasal cavity in warm-blooded animals** and, **rarely, humans**.
- One female can lay up to 300 eggs at a time and may lay up to 3,000 eggs during her 10- to 30-day lifespan.
- These **eggs hatch into larvae (known as maggots)**, which **burrow into the wound** using their sharp mouth hooks to feed on the living flesh, leading to infestation.
- After feeding, the larvae fall into the ground, burrow into the soil and emerge as adult screwworm flies.

What are the Symptoms of Infestation?

- Its infestations can be extremely painful, especially in humans, with a high mortality rate if left untreated.
- **Symptoms of infestation include:** wounds or **sores that do not heal**; bleeding from open sores; feeling larvae movement within a skin wound or sore; and a foul-smelling odour from the site of the infestation.

Source: IE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/new-world-screwworm/>

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