

2. LIFE HISTORY OF THE BIRD FLIES (DIPTERA: TABANIDAE)

1. LIFE OF THE ADULT BIRD FLIES

The female probes the host's body (COWS, ponies or other animals) for feeding and blood-sucking during the course of her life. She usually feeds on the blood of mammals or humans, and usually during the day. In some species, however, she is known to feed nocturnally, especially at the stages of twilight or dawn. The life span of the female bird flies is very short. It is reported to vary between 10 days to 10 weeks in different species.

2. REPRODUCTION

2.1. Eggs and larvae

- The female bird flies deposit 10-100 eggs in the warm places (e.g. in water or in the mud) in the water.

2.2. Pupae and imago

- Larvae are 1 millimeter or longer and are deposited in the soil or in a swampy or grassy area.

3. REPRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

- The female bird flies bite and suck the blood of various animals and humans in summer and autumn in the warm places.
- The male bird flies do not bite and suck the blood of humans or animals, only feed on the blood of insects.
- The male bird flies are active during the day and usually fly in the air during the day.
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4. CONTROL

- The bird flies are controlled by the use of insecticides, especially during the day.
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