

# FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY

“maggots, murder and men”



Forensic entomology applies the knowledge about insects and other arthropods in legal matter: the entomological findings can be defined as “evidence”. The main aims of the discipline is the minimum time since death estimation, that is known as minimum PMI, but it can provide useful information also about the body transfer and in “old/cold cases” about the season of the death.

Thanks to the development of new technologies and methods in molecular biology and in toxicology, forensic entomology is used also for victim identification, in absence of the body, and for the detection of drugs and toxics when the victim’s soft tissues are compromised.

The studies carried out by the FLEA (Forensic Lab for Entomology and Archaeology) aim to:

- Define the distribution and the phenology of insect of forensic interest at the national and European level;
- Identify alloctonous species of forensic interest introduced in the last year into the Italian territory, with particular attention to the port areas;
- Set up of morphological and molecular analyses for species identification;
- Apply forensic entomology to the veterinary medicine context.

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