

An interesting observation.

Sunday 7 August 2011 observed a small grey fly bring a male *Haematopota pluvialis* (Horsefly/ Cleg) to the ground in front of me. The small fly was riding on the back of the Cleg. There was no struggling involved.

Once on the ground, the fly moved around to the eyes of the Cleg and inserted its proboscis between the head and body.

At this stage I potted them and took a photo, attached.

Took them in and put them under a microscope, watched them for a period of 45 mins while the fly systematically probed its proboscis through the outer skin of the Cleg between the tergites, or where the legs are attached to the thorax, and vigorously appeared to suck out the contents.

Having started behind the eyes over the period of 45 mins it worked its way right down to the tip of the abdomen, but only making one hole to suck from at each of five places and working its proboscis around inside the cover the entire inside of the Cleg.

Took another photo through scope, attached.

I have not yet, and probably will not be able to ID the small grey fly involved.



Notice how the small fly has expanded!

Bernard Hocking

PS

The small fly attacking the Cleg has since been identified as *Coenosia tigrina* by Peter Chandler after Keith Alexander sent him the CISFBR Newsletter that had the article about it. I then sent him the actual specimens that he confirmed as *Coenosia tigrina*

He believes this is the first observation of it taking on another fly that is bigger than itself.