

# Entomological Parasitology: The Relations Between Entomology And The Medical Sciences

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## Review of Forensic Entomology Cases from Kuala Lumpur Hospital and Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 2002

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### Abstract

Forensic entomology was utilized to determine the post-mortem interval of eight forensic cases sent for autopsy examination at Kuala Lumpur Hospital and Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia between January to December, 2002. Five species of sarcosaprophagous flies: *Chrysomya megacephala*, *Ch. rufifacies*, *Hermetia illucens*, *Eristalis tenax* and a sarcophagid fly were found among the maggot specimens received by the Forensic Entomology Laboratory, Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The maggots were collected from dead bodies found, among others, in packed curtains, a building, a secondary forest, an oil-palm estate, inside a tank, and a river. *Ch. megacephala* was the main species found in all cases. The estimated Post-mortem Interval (PMI) ranged between 4 days and > 30 days.

**Keywords:** forensic entomology, post-mortem interval, decomposing bodies

### Introduction

Forensic entomology is the scientific study of insects and other arthropods related to legal investigations. It can be divided into three sub-areas: urban, stored-product, and medico-legal/medico-criminal entomology [1]. Insect evidence has been helpful in determining post-mortem interval or site of human death, to link a suspect to the scene of a crime, to prove the removal of a corpse to a different location, or to determine drug levels in a deceased person. The use of entomological data to determine post-mortem interval (PMI) is still in its infancy, and only a few studies had been recorded in Malaysia [2-6].

Forensic entomology is inextricably linked with the broader scientific field of medical entomology, taxonomy, and forensic pathology.

### Materials and methods

Specimens were received from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital and Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Each bottle of specimens was labeled with hospital identification number, police report number, name of deceased (if known), date and time of collection, and name of collector. Request forms describing the cases, signed by the attending forensic pathologist, were received with the specimens.

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