



Question of the Week

Q: I have small, red-bodied, humpbacked flies in my kitchen. They look like fruit flies, but don't have the red eyes. What are they and how can I get rid of them?

A: From the description it sounds as if you have phorid flies. Also known as humpbacked flies, phorid flies resemble fruit flies, though they lack the red eye color that is the classic trademark of the fruit fly. These flies are 1/8 inch long (including the wings) and are most abundant around decaying plant and animal matter. In houses, these flies can be found breeding in moist environments such as around plumbing and drains in bathroom and kitchen areas, garbage containers, garbage disposals, crawl-space areas and basements.

Although there are several sprays and traps available to kill these flies in a home, the infestation cannot be eliminated without eliminating their feeding breeding habitats: To control phorid fly infestations locate and eliminate their breeding and feeding sources, such as refrigerator catch pans, areas around leaky pipes, and residues of food rotting organic debris. For more information concerning this pest, contact the UNHCE Family, Home & Garden Education Center @ 1-877-398-4769.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at fhgc@ceunh.unh.edu