

FACT SHEET

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EXTERNAL PARASITES OF SWINE

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External parasites can reduce the production efficiency of swine, and severe infestations may cause death. Troublesome parasites can be controlled effectively through proper use of labeled insecticides. A complete list of insecticides and their suggested use for control of external parasites on swine can be found in the current issue of MP-691, *Texas Guide for Controlling External Parasites on Livestock and Poultry* (Texas Agricultural Extension Service). For information on premise fly control associated with swine production refer to L-1100, *Control of Flies Around Feedlots* (Texas Agricultural Extension Service). Chemical use restrictions frequently change. Carefully review and follow label directions with each use. MP-691 and L-1100 are available from your county Extension agent or from the Department of Agricultural Communications, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Hog Louse

Haematopinus suis (Linnaeus)

The hog louse is a flat, blood-sucking parasite. It is one of the largest lice known, 5 or 6 mm in length, and bluish-gray in color. These lice prefer to feed on the tender skin in the area behind the ears. But lice may be found over the entire body. A severe infestation of hog lice can cause serious weight loss due mainly to poor feed utilization and general unthriftiness.

Each female louse attaches 1 to 20 eggs on a single hair bristle, and may lay up to 90 eggs over a 25-day period. The eggs hatch in 12 to 20 days, depending on environmental conditions, and the young lice attach and begin feeding immediately. Hog lice reach sexual maturity in 13 to 15 days. They can be effectively controlled with several insecticides. Insecticides can be applied as sprays, dips, dusts, or pour-ons applied to the animal or to the animal's bedding.

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Sarcoptic Mange Mite

Sarcoptes scabiei suis (De Geer)

Sarcoptic mange is caused by a small, yellowish mite which is difficult to see with the naked eye. Hogs of all ages are susceptible, but younger and older animals are affected most seriously. The mite burrows into the skin, forming tunnels in which female mites lay 10 to 25 eggs each. The eggs hatch in 3 to 10 days, with young mites reaching sexual maturity in 10 to 12 days.

The burrowing of the mites causes lesions which usually appear first on the head. The mite infestations commonly spread toward the rear of the animal and the entire body may become infested. The infested skin becomes thickened, yellowish or pinkish and raw. Heavy infestation of sarcoptic mite can cause severe irritation and may result in hair loss.

Hog Follicle Mite

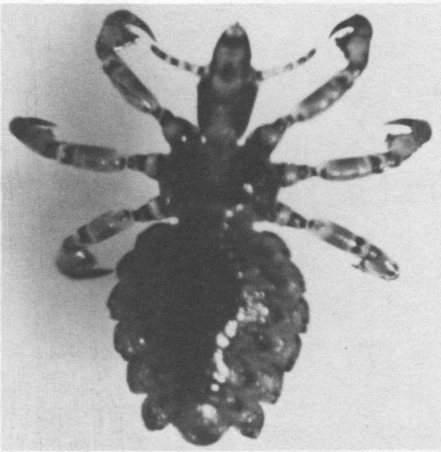
Demodex phylloides (Csokor)

Demodectic or follicular mange is caused by the burrowing of a small, elongated mite about half the size of the sarcoptic mange mite. This mite penetrates hair follicles and causes small, hard nodules or pimples. These nodules may increase in size to about 1 inch in diameter, and often rupture, releasing a creamy-white, cheesy material. Pimples first appear on the head and spread toward the rear of the host animal. Demodectic mange occurs only occasionally in Texas.

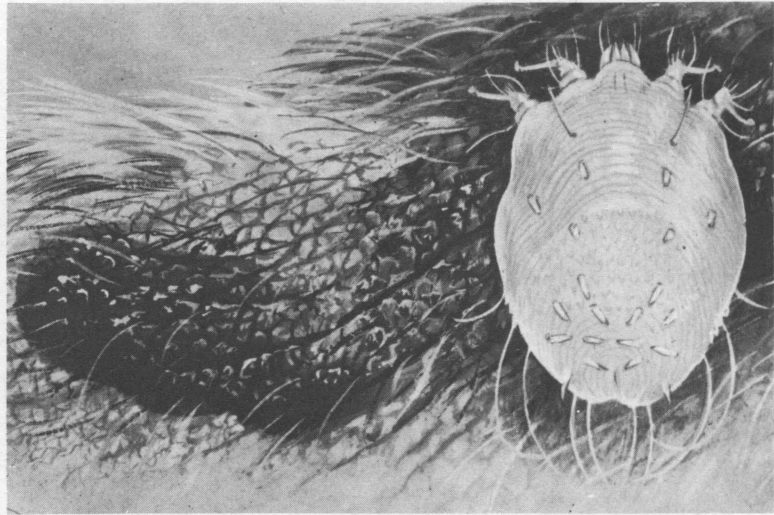
Screwworm

Cochliomyia hominivorax (Coquerel)

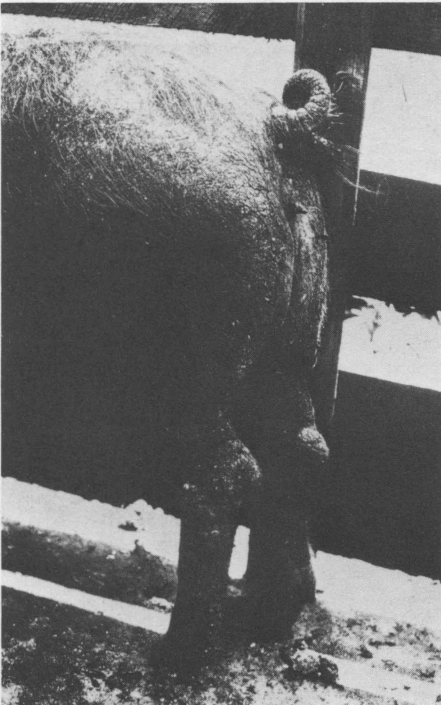
Prior to the Southwestern Screwworm Eradication Program, screwworms were common pests of swine. Despite the success of the eradication program, isolated screwworm infestations still occur. Swine producers should be alert to possible infestations. If maggots are noticed in any animal wound, 10 or more worms should be collected from deep within the wound and submitted to the USDA Screwworm Eradication Laboratory in Mission, Texas for identifi-



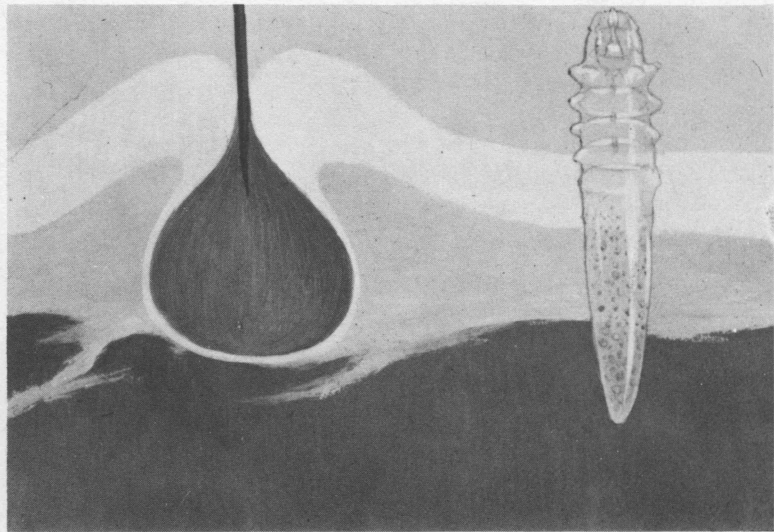
Hog louse.



Sarcoptic mange mite and scab produced by mite activity.



Typical infestation of sarcoptic mange.



Demodectic mange mite and infested hair follicle.

caution. Maggot sample kits are available at county Extension offices and from veterinarians. All wounds should be promptly treated with an approved insecticide and wound protectant.

The screwworm is only one of a large group of flies, most of which are commonly referred to as blow flies. The screwworm maggot is a true parasite that infests only wounds of living, warm blooded animals. Some maggots infesting wounds may be those of other blow fly species which breed primarily in carcasses.

The female screwworm fly lays clusters of up to 250 eggs in fresh wounds. Freshly laid egg clusters are white but change to a dull gray after about 12 hours as egg hatch approaches. The tiny, newly-hatched maggots burrow into the wounded flesh of the host animal and begin feeding. Wounds infested

with screwworms have a distinctive, foul odor which attracts other female screwworm flies seeking wounds for egg laying. A characteristic bloody or brownish discharge drains from the infested wound. Feeding maggots are often covered by the fluid. Maggots feed in closely packed groups, continually rasping and tearing at living tissue. Large numbers of screwworms feeding in a wound quickly develop a deep pocket in the host animal. Often the maggots feed so deeply they may not be easily recognized. Close observation will reveal worms projecting near the surface of bloody discharge.

Screwworm maggots normally mature in 5 to 6 days. When the feeding is complete, maggots drop from the wound to the ground, pupate and develop into adults (flies). Screwworms can kill a mature animal in 10 days or less, depending on the location of the wound. It is important to treat screwworm cases as quickly as they are detected.

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