Calliphoridae and Rhiniidae Recording Scheme

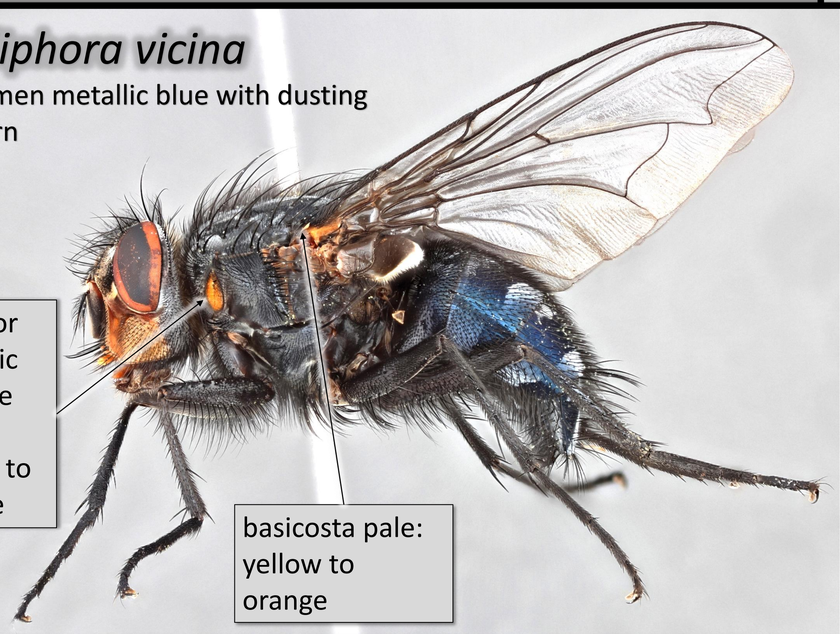
The Calliphoridae are a small family with only 37 species that have been recorded in Britain, and Rhiniidae – with only one: *Stomorhina lunata*. Many species are under-recorded and in need of further research. Blowflies are an important group, a number of species helping crime investigations – their larvae feed on carcasses and can be used to establish the post mortem interval. Some cause myiasis – a condition in which eggs are laid and larvae feed on live hosts such as people, sheep ('sheep-strike'), birds, etc. Other Calliphoridae parasitize earth worms, slugs or snails. The adult flies pollinate plants while feeding on their flowers. There are however many things we still do not know, for example how widespread are some species and what is their biology?

The Calliphoridae and Rhiniidae Recording Scheme is an initiative with the aim of recording the spatial and temporal distribution of British blowflies.

The records are being gathered from iRecord, social media, from entomologists – professional and amateur, and from museum collections. Many of these are photographic records, but for a number of species keeping specimens is necessary. Some of the characters that need to be examined are too small/difficult to see on a photograph (for example coxopleural streak, some bristles) or require further preparation of the specimen (genitalia extraction). To maintain high quality of data collected majority of submitted records are being meticulously checked. Hence the importance of keeping photographs and/or specimens. Below you can see few species that can be readily identified from good quality photographs – for others taking specimens is advised. For many species, such us most greenbottes (including very common *L. caesar*), cluster flies and *Bellardia* spp. reliable identification can be only possible after careful examination under the microscope; in some cases preparation of genitalia slides maybe necessary. Whenever possible I am happy to assist with identification – please do get in touch!

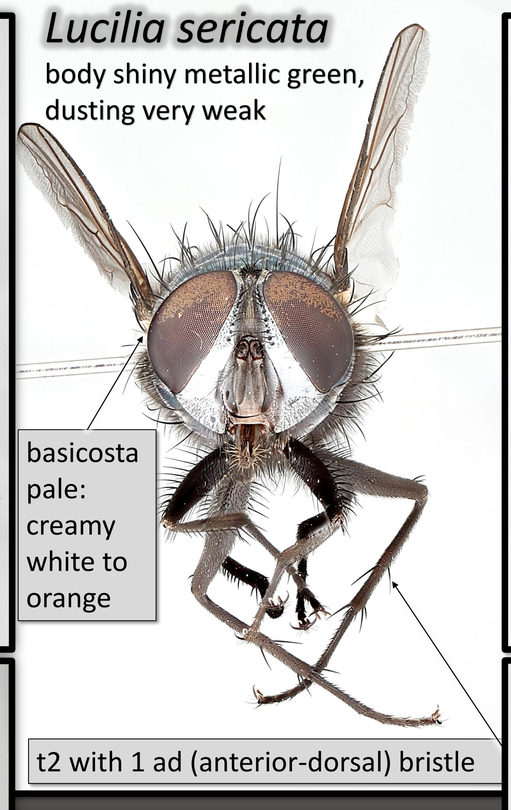
Calliphora vicina

abdomen metallic blue with dusting pattern



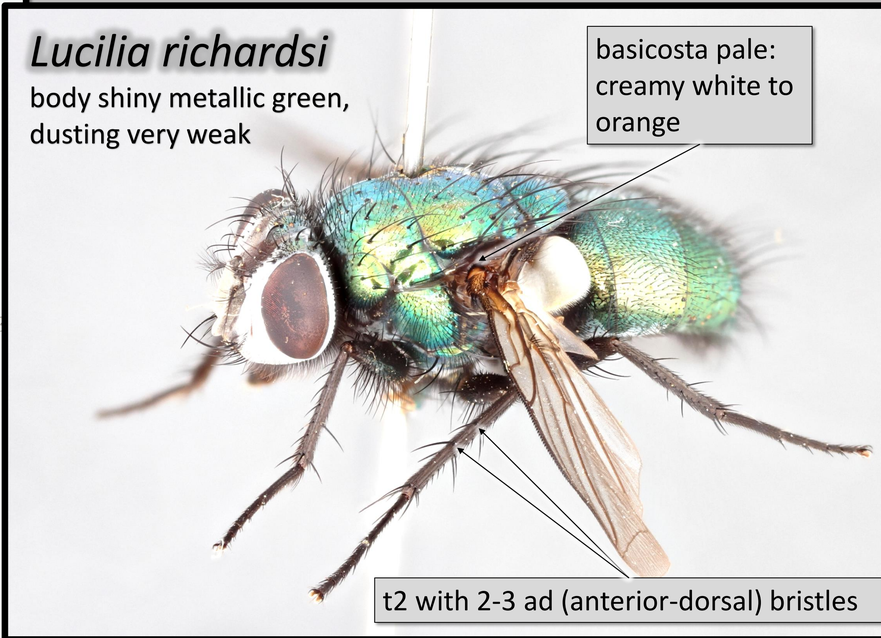
Lucilia sericata

body shiny metallic green, dusting very weak



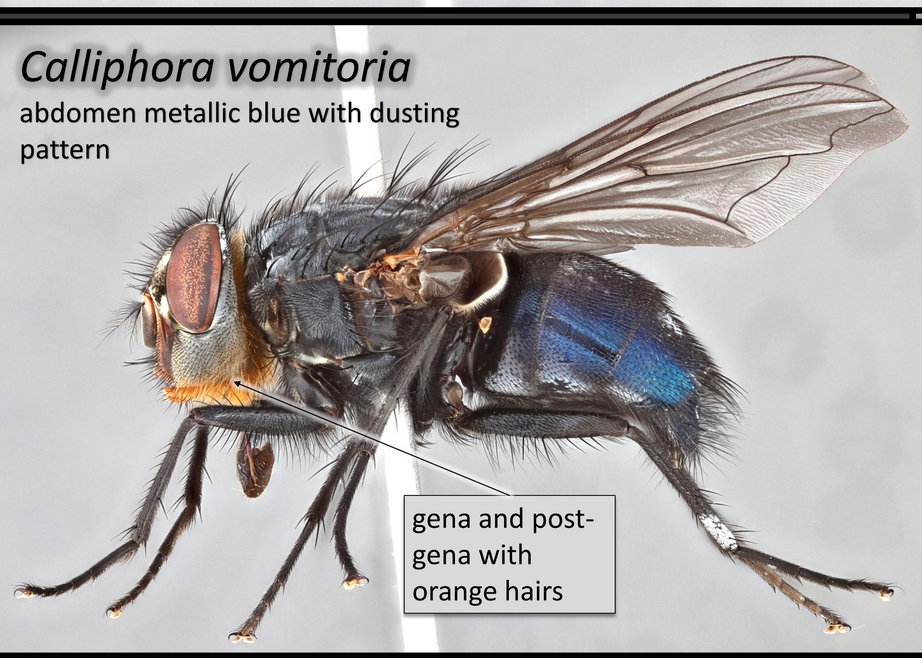
Lucilia richardsi

body shiny metallic green, dusting very weak



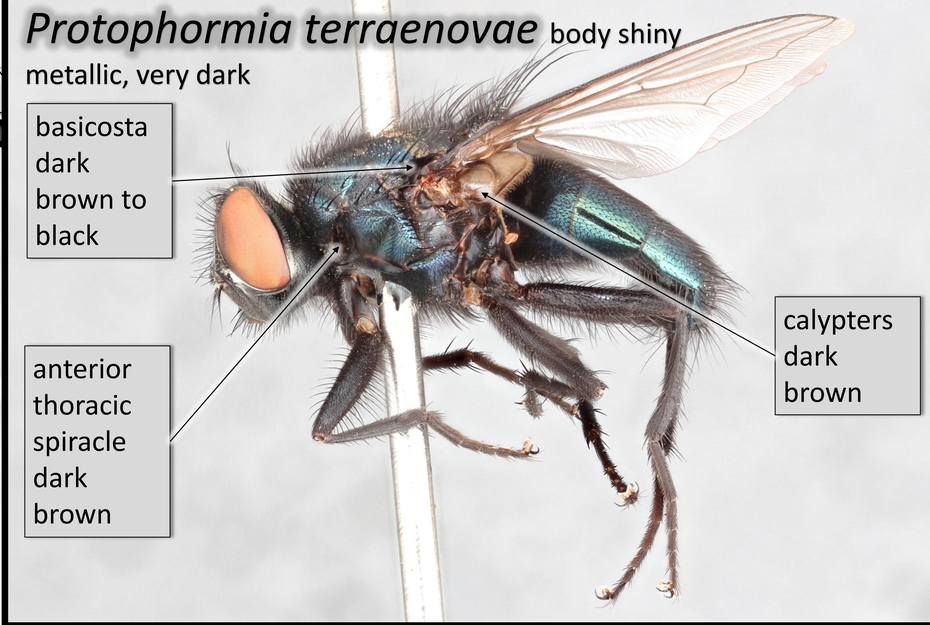
Calliphora vomitoria

abdomen metallic blue with dusting pattern



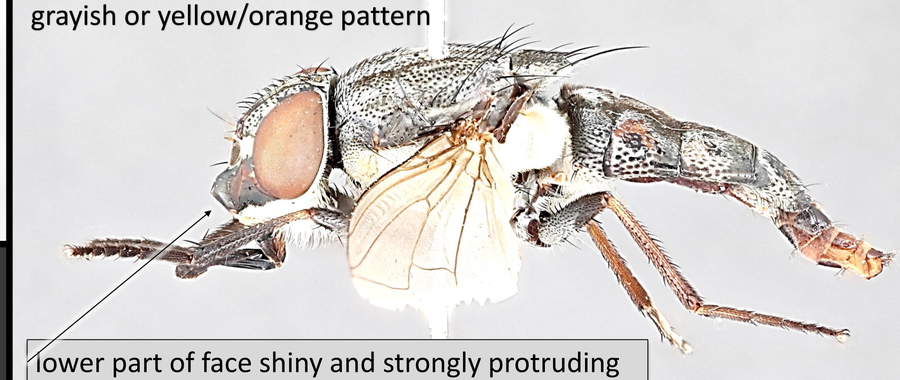
Pollenia amentaria

Protophormia terraenovae body shiny metallic, very dark



Cynomya mortuorum abdomen shiny metallic blue or green

Stomorhina lunata thorax dusted, with stripes, abdomen with grayish or yellow/orange pattern



Please submit your records at:
www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/home

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