

## *Damalinia bovis*

---

### red louse, biting louse

**Description:** External parasite. *Damalinia bovis* lice are small (1 – 2 mm long) flattened, wingless insects with brown heads and brown transverse markings on the abdomen. Mouth parts are adapted for chewing.

**Life Cycle:** Lice spend the entire life cycle on the host animal and can survive only a few days off the host. The prepatent period is 20 – 25 days.

**Geographic Distribution:** Cooler areas.

**Significance:** Biting lice are important, widespread parasites. The itching associated with these lice reduces thriftiness and causes economic losses.