

Haematopinus eurysternus

short-nosed cattle louse

Description: External parasite. *Haematopinus* lice are wingless flattened insects, 3.4 - 4.8 mm long and fairly broad with mouth parts adapted for sucking. The "nose" is actually a short head. The legs have claws which are used for hanging onto hair.

Life Cycle: The developmental stages include egg, larvae, nymph, and adult. Two to three weeks may be required to complete the life cycle, which is spent entirely on the host.

Geographic Distribution: Worldwide.

Significance: This is a common parasite of cattle, which can cause serious damage when present in large numbers. "Louse worry" can be significant, causing cattle to lick, scratch, and rub affected areas, which in turn causes the coat to become rough. Anemia can occur if the infestation is heavy and can lead to overall debilitation and increased susceptibility to infectious diseases and problems related to extremes in environmental temperature.