

Establishing Forensic Entomology in Albania - a Primer

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Abstract

Forensic entomology is the study of insects within a dead body, a subspecialty of forensic sciences whereby information is analysed to draw conclusions on legal matters. By calculating the age of immature insect stages feeding of human corpses, a possible evaluation of post-mortem intervals from the first day to several weeks might be available. The attractiveness of a decaying body differs for different necrophagous insects. Therefore, the appearance of this species and their relationship to the stages of decomposition, has been studied intensively on a wide variety of target organisms, humans included. The post-mortem interval (time of death) is a highly important forensic clue during investigation of crime scenes. It is of crucial importance to adopt internationally accepted standard and

approaches, whenever this evidence is collected and evaluated for forensic purposes.

Keywords: forensic entomology; insects; post-mortem interval [PMI]; ecological process; decomposition.