

County Medical Examiners "Medicocriminal Entomology"

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When unidentified remains are relinquished to our
care
That are so decayed and liquefied as to make
diagnosis
quite a chore
When the putrescent canvas of death is teeming with
bristling life
With tiny anthropoid stowaways nestled in every pore...
My autopsy technicians mistake the corpse shudder for
a cadaveric spasm
But upon closer inspection they witness the nauseating
wave of insect activity
The feasting and chatter drowns the neon hum from
the
morgue lamps and fans
And the ambient temperature rises 5 degrees as their
chitinous bodies skitter in putridity...
The corpse is alive...reanimated through entomological
means
The John Doe swells...as parasitic activity literally
bursts through his seams
Seeping rivers of eggs...hatching larvae are hurriedly
washed down the drain
Call the Forensic Entomologist...everyone knows he's
got
bugs on the brain...
...Carcass hive...
...Cadaverine nest...
The Forensic Entomologist is a specialist in this
field
Of which there are three separate and distinct
components
The Urban field deals with insect/human environment
matters
Stored-Products handles infestation of commodities
and
products...
But the one that we require is the Medicolegal
Entomology field
With its eccentric bug experts and their forensic
Ph.D.'s
They've classified and catalogued their necrophilous

winged friends

And can determine PMI by the stadiums and stages of insect activity...

...Blowflies...spiders...beetles...mites and lice...

...Maggots...larvae...pupa...hatch and fly...

...Crawling...squirming...breeding...burrowing...

...Medicocriminal entomology...

The Forensic Entomologist will analyze the cadaveric colonization

Taking samples and noting the current state of the Blowfly population

After determining the extent of the recent Coleoptera infestation

He will estimate the time of death so that we may continue with the examination...

...When tissue liquefies and attracts the clavicorn ...

...The flies are drawn and oviposit their eggs...

...From this predictable process, tiny maggots are born...

...Named Instar Larvae, which then grow to Prepupae...

The maggot molts through three instar stages, plumping

as they gnaw

Colonies hatch together and migrate across the corpse as a collective group

As a result of this infestation, they disseminate bacteria and secrete enzymes

Which enable nearly all of the soft tissue to be dissolved and consumed...

Depending on the habitat and the abundance of the region

The expert can determine if the Diptera is currently in season

Whether the Bottle fly prefers bright sunlight or shade

And if the Coleopteran is nocturnal or active during the day...

Oviposited eggs encrust the natural orifices and moist recesses

Maggots swim in wound sites consuming rotting necrotic flesh

The examiner's gloved hand is thrust wrist-deep in this bug colony

Searching through the thriving mush for additional squirming evidence...

...Parasitic swarm...

...Maggot colony...

...Blowflies...spiders...beetles...mites and lice...

...Maggots...larvae...pupa...hatch and fly...

...Crawling...squirming...breeding...burrowing...

...Medicocriminal entomology...

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