

What is biting me- Delusory parasitosis

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Mystery- Who done it?

- Mysterious bites
- Sensation of being bite
- Questions from clients, co- workers about “human infestations”
- WHAT SHOULD I SPRAY ??????

Two parts

- Things that do bite- how to help figure out
- Imaginary insect infestations- how to deal with them



Are there bites or symptoms
or do you just feel the bite ?



Questions to ask

- Where are they ?
- What time of year ?
- What have you been doing ?
- Do you have pets ?
- Anybody else in the home have problems?

Bird mites



Fur mites

“walking dandruff”



Human bed bugs

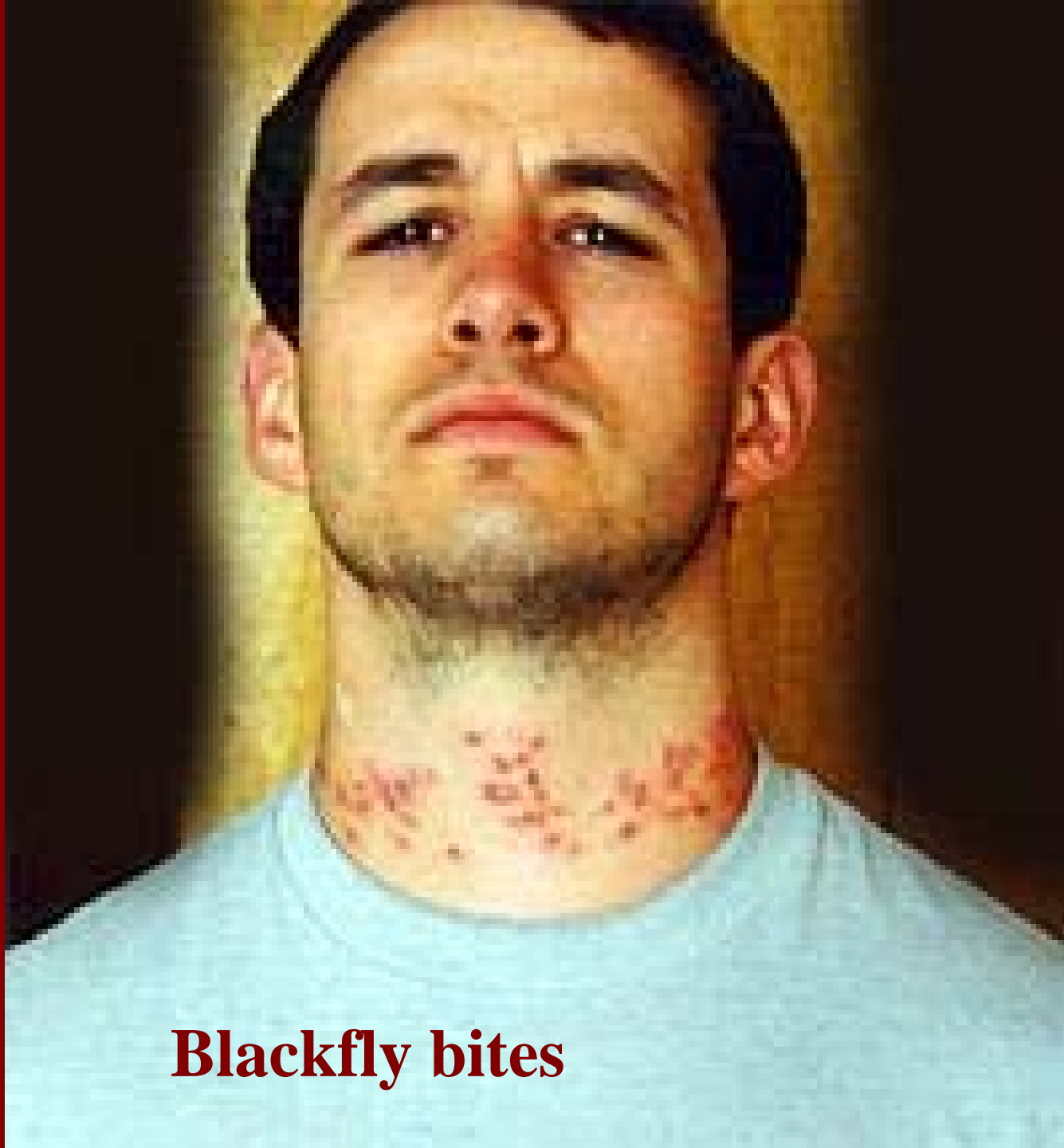




FLEAS







Blackfly bites



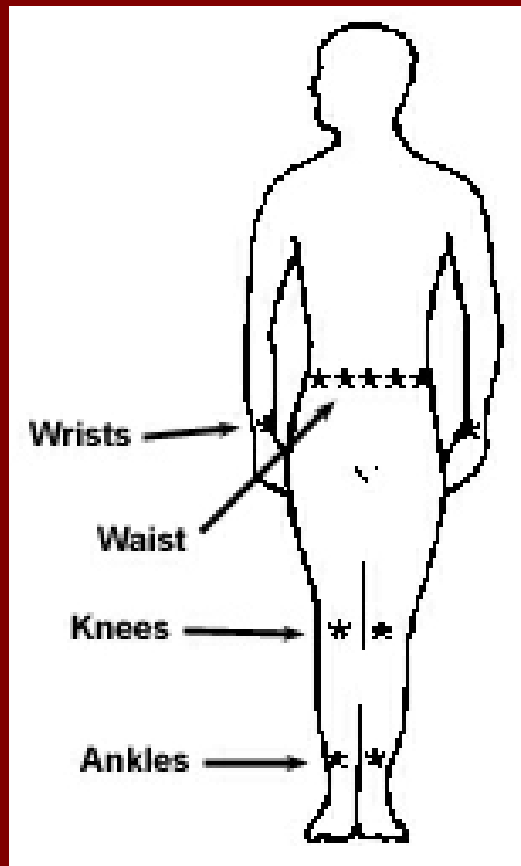
After 24 h



Chigger bites



Chiggers





Straw itch mite bites



Straw Itch mite

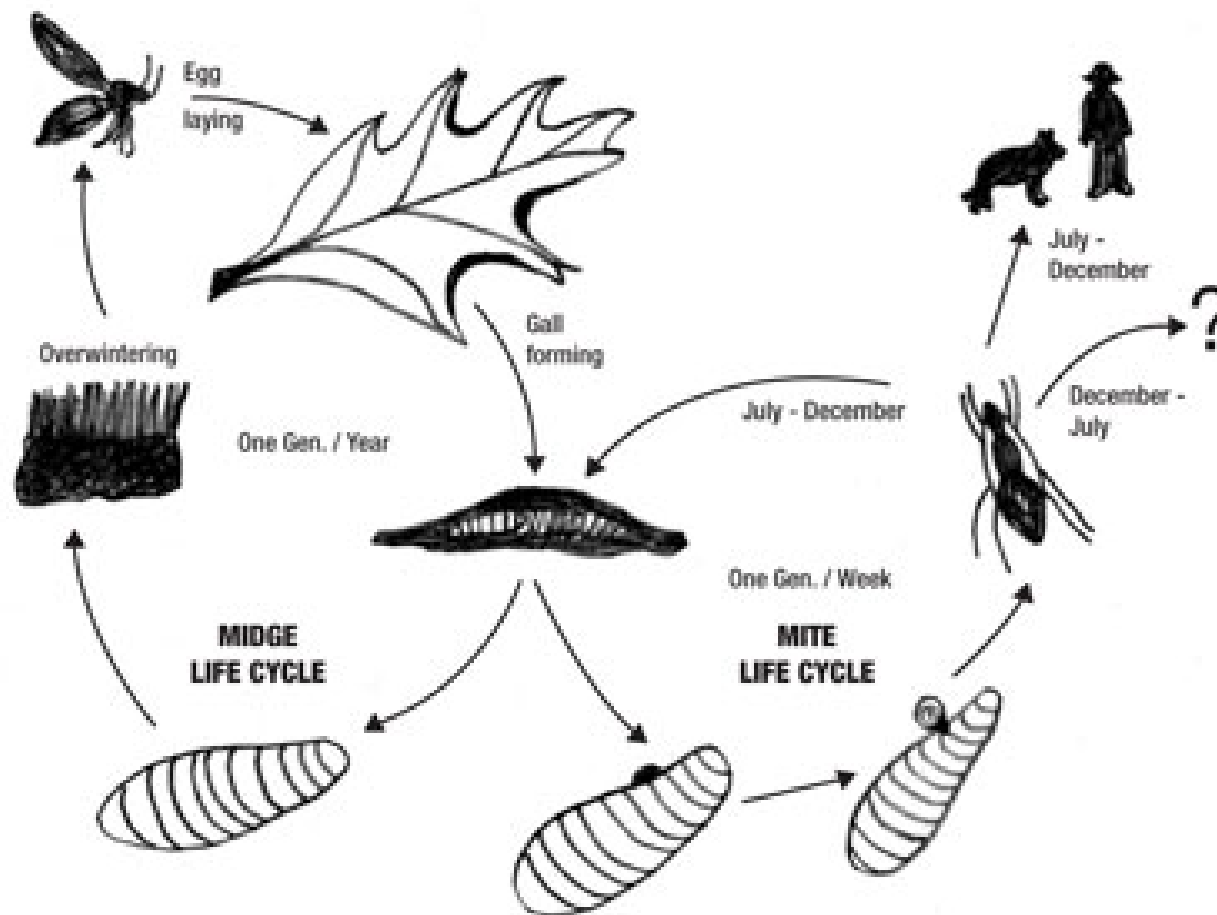
- Parasite of stored grain insects(pet food, bird seed, infested hay)
- Can not have problem without insect host



Grass mites ?



Figure 3. Life cycles of the gall-forming midge and the oak leaf itch mite.



Source: Reference 8.

Oak leaf itch mite

- Has not been found in Wisconsin
- We do not have many pin oaks-
- Critter is found in gall from pin oaks

Must find critter to be sure
Ask to see specimen
Can speculate if not

Bites or no bites?

Delusionary parasitosis

It is a persistent unshakable belief held in the face of strong contradictory evidence. People are convinced there are insects or worms on or inside them that are biting them , but no insects can be found and the stories often do not make biological sense

Delusionary parasitosis

- Entomologist and county agents have a number of “cases on file”
- Trained to deal with critters ?
- “Dear Abbey aspect ”- Not trained in human psychology - Am I ready for this?
- Dilemma -We can not practice medicine

Delusionary parasitosis

- Imagined problem?- can be underling medical issues- drug side effects, allergies , disease, fiber glass exposure- etc.
- We can only help -if they find a critter

General traits of classic cases

- Client has been dismissed medically
- Send dozens of samples on tape, or in bags
- Stress in live (loss of spouse, job)

Master
Bedroom
Sheets

Master
Bedroom
Light Shade

Master
Bedroom
Window
Sill

Dog
Bed/Howel

Master
Bedroom
Carpet

Girl's
Room
Carpet

Girl's
Bedroom
Window
Sill

Girl's
Bedroom
Sheet

Pool Room
Carpet

Den Carpet

from bed
sheet

7 Nds

1 Knee

from
sheet



SPECIMEN



Rules of engagement

- If can eliminate arthropods causes-
suggest other sources or avenues of
help - Bugs in winter ?

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- Be supportive- do not dismiss “bites” or sensations

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- Be firm about diagnosis -This does not fit any know insect or mite biology or pattern

Rules of engagement

- If can eliminate arthropods causes- suggest other sources or avenues of help
- Be supportive- do not dismiss “bites”
- Be firm about diagnosis
- Do not jump to conclusions- we are only a part of the puzzle

Nobody can diagnose from
bites alone



- Ask for samples
- If no “biting “ critters after 2 tries- suggest they look for other causes
- DO NOT SPRAY or Fog without a reason- concern about pesticides causing some symptoms

- DO NOT BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU READ
ON THE INTERNET

Need help

- Send samples to the insect diagnostic lab-
- If have specimens - digital images
- It is a medical problem- there are specialist- dermatology/ psychiatry