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CAES SEMINAR SERIES

“Maggots and Murder: An Introduction to Forensic Entomology”

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Wednesday, February 5, 2020

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT

The association between corpses and maggots (the larvae of flies), mainly blow flies (Diptera: Family Calliphoridae) has been noted since Biblical times. Broadly speaking, forensic entomology involves the use of insect evidence for a variety of objectives including pest infestations and insects in food, but here I am focused on the role of insects (or other arthropods) in crime scene investigations. The medico-legal or medico-criminal aspect is what many people think of with the term forensic entomology. With the development and succession of insects infesting a corpse, the principal methodology is the use of temperature dependent development of insects, especially flies, to estimate the post-mortem interval (time following death). I will review these principles and recent application to a murder case in Connecticut.