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## **CARNUS HEMAPTERUS (DIPTERA: CARNIDAE)** **AN AVIAN NEST PARASITE NEW TO BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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*Carnus hemapterus* Nitzsch is an ectoparasite of bird nestlings found throughout Europe and scattered locations in North America. (Bequaert 1942, Capelle and Whitworth 1973). Although Sabrosky (1965) lists it only from New Brunswick in Canada, Bequaert (1951) did state that *C. hemapterus* was also "found in British Columbia...the details...to be published later by the discoverers." As far as I know, those details were never published.

While checking a nest of the Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* near Osoyoos, B.C. on April 17, 1985, I noticed several small flies crawling over the newly-hatched nestlings. I collected a few specimens on

April 17, 19, and 21, and on April 25 I took 50 flies off two nestlings. They were identified as *C. hemapterus* by S.G. Cannings and J.F. McAlpine; voucher specimens are now at the University of British Columbia, Canadian National Collection, and the University of Guelph.

*C. hemapterus* has been collected from the nests of a wide variety of birds, but primarily from those of raptors and hole-nesting species. I found it to be common in the Osoyoos area, being present in all of 13 nests of the European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and two other Northern Saw-whet Owl nests that I checked. Further details of the infestations are being published elsewhere (Cannings, in press).

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