

DR. MAGGOT AND MR. WORM: FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY IN HAWAII

M. Lee Goff
Department of Entomology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
3050 Maile Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

In cases of unattended death due to homicide, suicide, accident or natural causes, there are few criteria available to the medical examiner for determination of time of death after an interval of from 12 to 17 hours following the event. Among the techniques available is the use of arthropod succession patterns. While this technique has been employed in Europe since the late 1890's, it has only recently been widely employed in the United States. During 1983, a program in forensic entomology was initiated in Hawaii as a cooperative effort between the Department of Entomology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the Office of the Medical Examiner, City and County of Honolulu. The techniques involved in determination of time of death will be described and illustrated with particular reference to the Hawaiian fauna.