Identification of *Delia* spp. Flies

onion maggot = *D. antiqua*
bean seed maggot = *D. florilega*
seed corn maggot = *D. platura*
cabbage maggot = *D. radicum* (ex. *brassicae*)
**Males vs. Females**

**Male** with clasper-like appendages bent backward from tip along underside of tip of abdomen, tip of abdomen may appear bulbous

**Female** with terminal slit or opening at end of abdomen, sometimes with flexible ovipositor protruding, tip generally conical
**Delia antiqua**—onion maggot

larger-sized (larger or similar to *D. radicum*), but overall much lighter colored (similar to *D. platura*), host: found only on onions

Best character is larger size (almost twice as large as *platura/florilega*). Compared to *platura*, top of head between eyes more depressed, “face” more protruding in front

Top of head depressed

Front of head more protruding
(wider gap between eye and frontal ridge)

Top of head flatter

Front of head less protruding
(narrower gap between eye and frontal ridge)
**Delia florilega** – bean seed maggot  
**Delia platura** – seed corn maggot

Both species extremely similar in appearance and biology, but both generally smaller in size than *D. antiqua* or *D. radicum*, found on many hosts

**Separating males:**

- *D. florilega* - male: 
  - 1
  ˢ
  tarsal segment with long bristles, 2x as long as tarsal width

- *D. platura* - male: 
  - 1
  ˢ
  tarsal segment with short bristles, about as long as tarsal width
Delia florilega – bean seed maggot
Delia platura – seed corn maggot

Separating females:

- **D. florilega** - female
  - Middle tibia with 4 or fewer bristles around middle (don’t count those at apex)

- **D. platura** - female
  - Middle tibia with 5 or more bristles around middle (don’t count those at apex)
*Delia radicum* – cabbage maggot

Slightly larger-sized than *platura/florilega*, darker-colored, very bristly appearing, hosts: only on plants in cabbage/mustard family

**Male** – hind femur with long, distinctive bristles at base
(short or absent on other species)

**Females** may be lighter colored. No good characters for female except palps are long and thin, legs brownish