

La larva

Insects and cadaveric decomposition

Insects are an extremely diverse group of organisms — especially flies, beetles, bees, ants, and wasps. For many of these species, dead bodies represent an energy resource, and from the moment of death, they initiate a transformation process known as cadaveric decomposition.

This process involves a breakdown in the body's integral balance, and insects play a crucial role as decomposers.

Moreover, insects can reveal information about the location where a body was found — or where it had previously been.

In certain cases, the study of insects can even suggest the cause of death.

The presence of insects becomes especially important when human remains not being found weeks or months after death, as they may be the only remaining evidence that allows forensic investigators to estimate the time of death.

Amat García, Eduardo Carlo, y Luz Miryam Gómez Piñérez. *La entomología forense como evidencia científica en Colombia: métodos, estudios y prospectivas. Derecho probatorio contemporáneo: prueba científica y técnicas forenses*, Sello Editorial Universidad de Medellín, 2012.

Poems

Canto 3 TAMORALES

A Mario Rivero

Bajo
el siseo sedoso
del platanal
alguien
sueña que vivió.

Canto 15 CALDONO

¿Quién
llega a Caldonó enciende
el fuego fatuo
y convoca
a los gusanos?

Canto 12 PAJARO

Si la mar es el morir
en Pájaro
la vida sabe a mar.

Canto 4 DABEIBA

El río es dulce aquí
en Dabeiba
y lleva rosas rojas
esparcidas en las aguas.
No son rosas,
es la sangre
que toma otros caminos.

Canto 3 TAMORALES

To Mario Rivero

Beneath
the silky hiss
of the banana grove
someone
dreams they once lived.

Canto 15 CALDONO

Whoever
arrives in Caldonó
lights the will-o'-the-wisp
and summons
the worms.

Canto 12 PAJARO

If the sea means death
in [Pájaro]
then life tastes like the sea.

Canto 4 DABEIBA

The river is sweet here
in Dabeiba
and carries red roses
scattered on its waters.
They are not roses,
it is blood
taking other paths.

María Mercedes Carranza – El canto de las moscas

*English translations by Gabriela Rubio for performative use in the piece **La larva**.*