

# GOT MAGGOTS? THINK SCREW-WORM FLY!

## THE THREAT

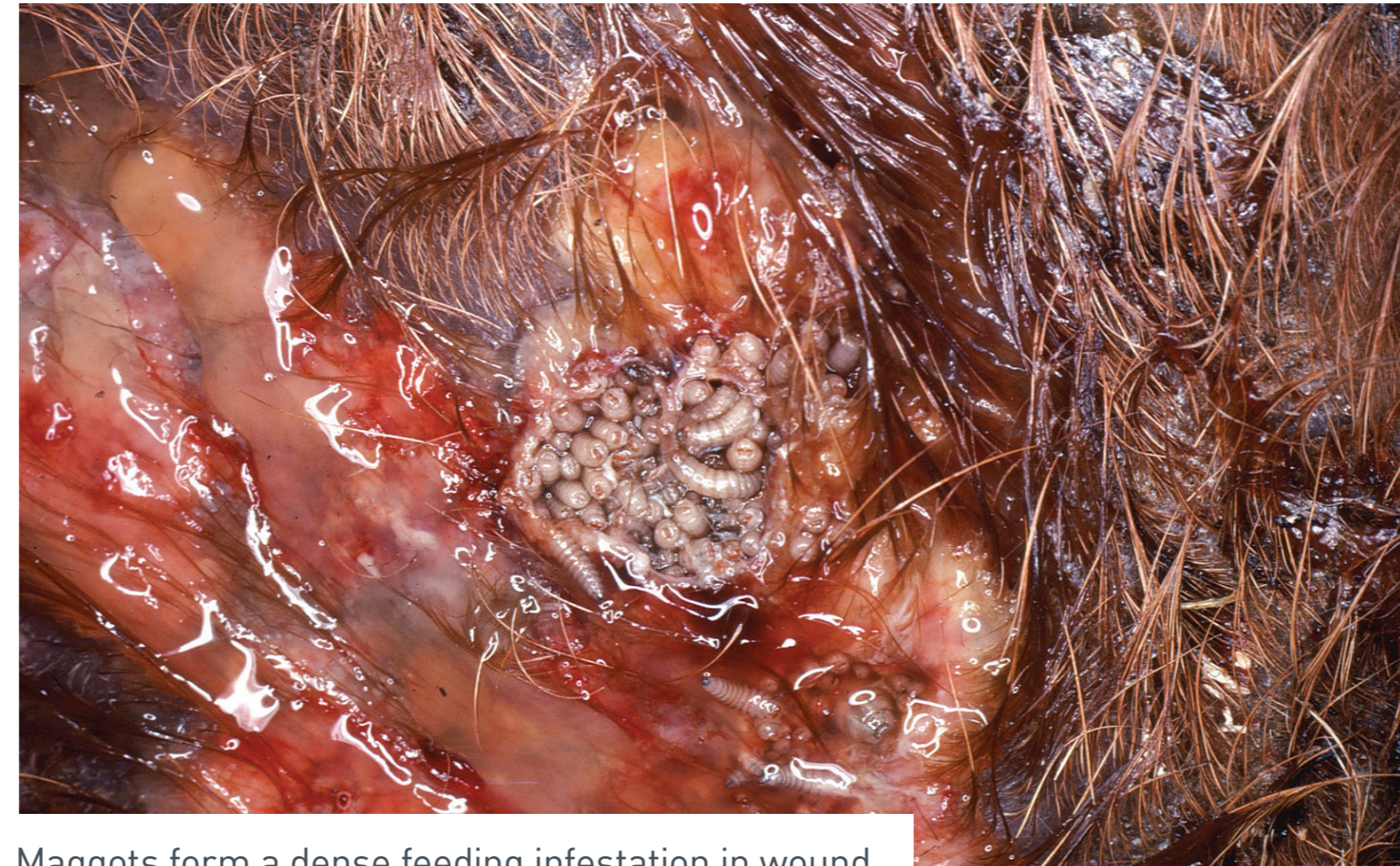
Screw-worm fly is an insect pest of warm blooded animals including people, livestock and wildlife.

The fly lays eggs on wounds or moist body openings, which hatch to release aggressive flesh-eating maggots.

Establishment of screw-worm fly in Australia would have major negative impacts including on northern livestock production, livestock export trade and public health.



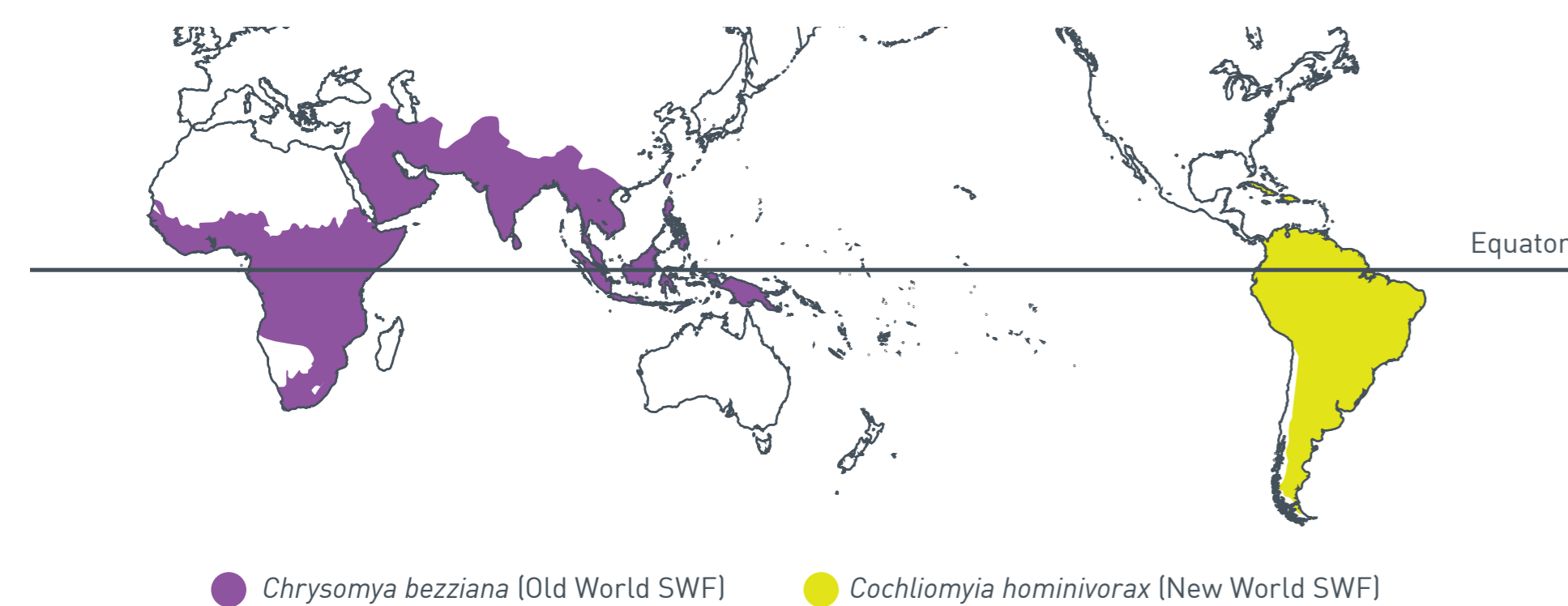
Screw-worm fly maggot



Maggots form a dense feeding infestation in wound

## GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

Screw-worm fly (SWF) is widespread through tropical regions; occurring in some of Australia's close neighbours.

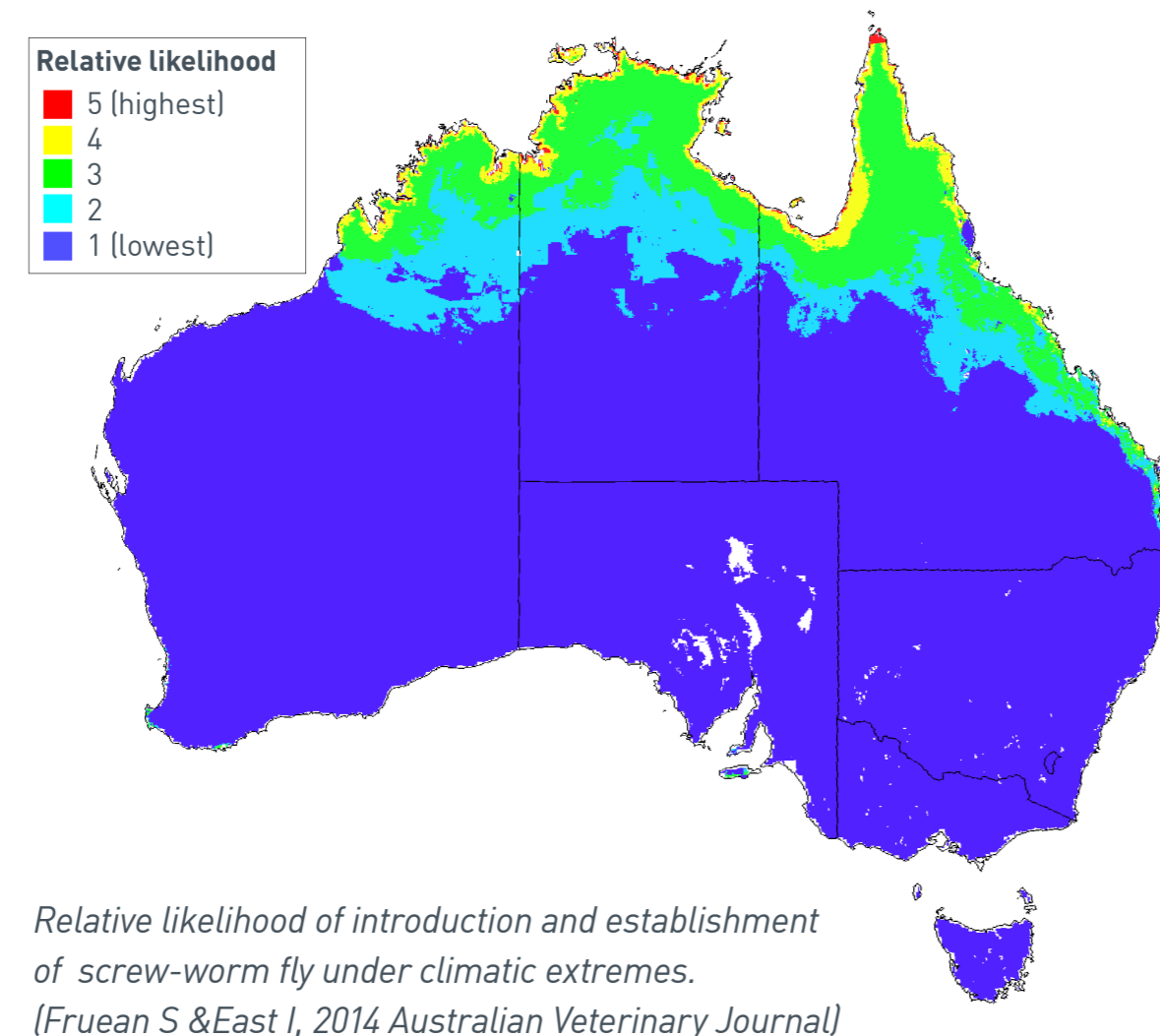


Adult Old World screw-worm fly

## POTENTIAL AFFECTED AREA IN AUSTRALIA

Screw-worm fly is most likely to enter through the Torres Strait or with returning livestock export vessels. Travellers returning from countries where the pest is endemic may also be infested.

Screw-worm fly would most likely establish in northern Australia, particularly in the Torres Strait islands and/or in the regions around livestock export ports in WA, NT and Qld.



Human wound filled with screw-worm fly maggots

## HOW DO I SPOT SCREW-WORM FLY?

Screw-worm flies look like blowflies found throughout Australia and fly traps are used in northern Australia to look for them.

Tissue damage caused by feeding screw-worm fly maggots, and the appearance of the maggots themselves, are more easily recognised than adult flies. Maggot identification requires specialist expertise.

## GOT MAGGOTS?

Keeping Australia screw-worm fly free relies upon early detection, containment and eradication before it can spread to other areas. Regular sampling and laboratory examination of maggots from infested wounds anywhere in Australia is key to early detection.

If you see an animal with maggots in a wound please support surveillance by sending some maggots to your government laboratory:



1. Confine the animal for sampling
2. Gently flush the wound with running water



3. Using tweezers collect up to 10 maggots from the wound
4. Place maggots into hot water (just off the boil) for 10 seconds
5. Place maggots in a small container of raw vinegar and seal in a ziplock bag



6. Report your finding and get advice on sending maggots to your laboratory

## SEND YOUR MAGGOTS!

Please mark Attn: Screw-worm fly surveillance

**Queensland:** Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory,  
 Health and Food Science Precinct,  
 PO Box 156, Archerfield BC, QLD 4108  
 (07) 3708 8762

**Northern Territory:** Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories  
 Department of Primary Industry and Resources,  
 GPO Box 3000, Darwin, NT 0801  
 (08) 8999 2249

**Western Australia:** DAFWA Laboratories  
 Department of Agriculture and Food WA,  
 3 Baron Hay Crt, South Perth, WA 6510  
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