

Image Article

## A Case Study of Decapitated 38 Years Old Male Corpse from Punjab (India): Image Article

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On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 decapitated corpse of a 38 years old male was recovered from Longowal, District Sangrur, Punjab, India. His relative reported him missing approximately 8 days prior to the discovery of the corpse. He was last seen alive on the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Autopsy revealed that he had died approximately 8-9 days ago. PMI estimated by medical examiner was based largely on the physical appearance and rate of decomposition of corpse. During autopsy, several third instar larvae of *Chrysomya megacephala* were collected from victim's amputated arm. The larvae were collected alive and placed immediately into 80% ethanol to identify the developmental stage. Weather data, including maximum and minimum temperature, relative humidity were obtained from Meteorological Department of Punjabi University, Patiala. Meteorological data indicate the environmental conditions to which the corpse and its associated entomofauna were exposed. Based on the temperature records for the relevant period, the number of days necessary for *Chrysomya megacephala* to develop from egg to larvae was calculated. The average temperature to which larvae were exposed was very less i.e. 10.6°C and only few larvae were collected from the corpse. Tentative PMI based on temperature data was estimated to be 9 days.

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