



NEW WARNINGS ON HOUSEFLIES



Those summer houseflies buzzing around the kitchen and on your food during picnics are more than an annoyance or distraction.

Recent research has, according to this story, found that flies carry more dangerous pathogens than do cockroaches, and laboratory tests have been able to locate the pathogens on common houseflies that cause meningitis and serious food-borne diseases.

Jerry Butler, a University of Florida entomologist, was cited a warning that fast-food restaurants' practices of leaving food under heating lamps until the food is sold provide a fertile breeding ground for pathogens transported to food on flies' feet or bodies, adding, "Flies like to go to restaurants, and they bring their friends, too," he told the Institute of Food Technologists convention here. He said houseflies caught outside restaurant dumpsters -- "including some that were quite upscale" -- were found to carry **pathogens that cause **meningitis, pneumonia, respiratory diseases, urinary tract infections, blood poisoning, allergic reactions and diarrhea.****

More worrying, Butler said, is that **houseflies feeding at hospital dumpsters are picking up drug-resistant strains of some bacteria, making treatment of infected humans more difficult. Houseflies can travel 15 kilometers a day and live for about a month.**