

## MOUND OF TROUBLE MATCHING GAME PICTURE ID GUIDE

Here is the information to tell the students when they uncover each card in the *Mound of Trouble Matching Game*.

### BLUE BORDER/BACKGROUND



#### 1. Airplane broadcasting bait

Airplanes are very versatile pieces of equipment. They can be used when agricultural products (such as seed, fertilizer or chemicals) must be spread over large areas. They can spread products easily and efficiently. Airplanes can be used to spread fire ant bait products to help manage this pest.



#### 2. Dragonfly

Almost everyone knows about dragonflies. They are often found near lakes, stock tanks and streams, where the eggs are laid and the immature stages develop. These insects hunt and catch their prey while in flight. Like fire ants, dragonflies mate in flight. Dragonflies eat mosquitos. They can be considered a beneficial insect.



#### 3. Fire ant winged reproductives

Only the male and female adult reproductives of the red imported fire ant have wings. They are also called "alates." After they leave the mound, they fly and mate in the air. The newly mated queen falls to the ground, sheds her wings and searches for a suitable location to begin her mound.



Photo courtesy Larry Gilbert,  
University of Texas

#### 4. Phorid fly attacking fire ant workers

A parasitic fly, the phorid fly, may help control fire ants. The phorid fly female injects an egg into the midsection (thorax) of the fire ant's body. The egg hatches and the larvae burrows into the ant's head, where it grows and eventually causes the ant's head to fall off. Inside the decapitated head, the larva pupates and emerges as a mature fly. However, the real effect of these flies is to reduce fire ant foraging activities which, in turn, allows native ant species to better compete with fire ants.



#### 5. Horsefly

The horsefly comes from a large insect family in the order Diptera (pronounced DIP-ter-uh). It is a medium to large fly with a stout body and large head. Horseflies range in size from that of a housefly to the size of a bumblebee. The females of practically all species suck the blood of both wild and domestic animals. The deerfly, a relative of the horsefly, also attacks people.