

## **Eight new species of *Megaselia* Rondani (Diptera: Phoridae) from the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen**

R. HENRY L. DISNEY

*Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK*

### **Abstract**

The following new species of *Megaselia* are described from the United Arab Emirates, with four of these also recorded from additional countries (indicated in brackets). *M. ebejeri* (Oman), *M. floccicauda* (Yemen), *M. gallagheri* (Oman), *M. multivesiculae*, *M. necmera*, *M. nudihalterata* (Oman, Yemen), *M. papei* and *M. quintincisa*.

**Key words:** Diptera, Phoridae, *Megaselia*, new species, Arabia

### **Introduction**

The genus *Megaselia* Rondani includes at least 45% of the known Phoridae, with about 1400 described species currently recognised. The species of Arabia are among the least well documented. Its fauna is mainly Afrotropical but with a Palaeartic element in the more northerly regions. The most recent keys to the Western Palaeartic species cover the British fauna (Disney, 1989), and many subsequent additions and amendments for the European fauna have been listed (Disney, 2003). The Afrotropical species were keyed by Beyer (1965), but he omitted the species of the Seychelles that were described by Collin (1912) and his keys are otherwise marred by omissions and errors. Additional new species from the Seychelles and Madagascar include species also recorded from Arabia (Disney, 2005, 2006b) and further additions along with clarifications of the recognition of some other Arabian species (Disney, 2004a, b, 2006a, c).

This paper describes new species collected, mainly by Dr Tony van Harten, in the United Arab Emirates.