



Six new species of *Megaselia* Rondani (Diptera: Phoridae) from mainland Australia

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Abstract

Megaselia alisamorum sp. nov., *M. digiturgida* sp. nov., *maculafemoralis* sp. nov., *nescabra* sp. nov., *M. quattuorbrevis* sp. nov. and *M. tweedensis* sp. nov. are described from Tweed Heads, New South Wales. A checklist of species of Phoridae reported from mainland Australia is provided.

Key words: Diptera, Phoridae, *Megaselia*, new species, mainland Australia, check list

Introduction

The scuttle flies (Diptera: Phoridae) of Australia are poorly documented, despite the fact that the family exhibits a greater diversity of larval habits than any other family of insects. Borgmeier (1967a, b) provides the most recent review of the species recorded from Australia, apart from a subsequent treatment of species recorded from Tasmania (Disney, 2003).

While on a visit to Tweed Heads, New South Wales, ten scuttle flies (Diptera: Phoridae) were collected in water traps in a garden. These were preserved in alcohol (70–80%) and subsequently mounted on slides in Berlese Fluid (Disney, 2001). This collection included nine species in the giant genus *Megaselia* Rondani. Six of these species proved to be new to science, and are described below.

New records and new species

The holotypes of the new species are deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AMS).

Megaselia alisamorum sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

In the keys of Borgmeier (1967b) this will run to couplets 14, Lead 2 on page 93. It is distinguished from *M. patellipyga* Borgmeier by the different hypopygium. The new species could also run to couplet 87, lead 1 on page 91, to *M. ustipennis* Borgmeier, from which it is distinguished by its darker abdominal venter. See also *M. tweedensis* (below).

The name refers to my grandchildren Alistair and Samantha Climie.

Male. Frons brown, about as broad as long, with 62–70 hairs and dense but very fine microsetae. Supra-antennal bristles (SAs) robust but lower pair a little shorter. The antials slightly lower on frons than upper SAs