

Pest Profile



Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Phorid Fly

Scientific Name: *Megaselia scalaris*

Order and Family: Diptera: Phoridae

Size and Appearance: The adults are 0.5-5.5 mm in length, dark brown in color, and have “humpbacked” appearance. They feature very short antennae and highly pigmented veins (easy to distinguish with naked eye).

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	Females lay about 500 eggs near fermenting food products. Small, white, in clusters.
Larva/Nymph	0.5-10 mm depending on instar	Larvae are spindle shaped, yellowish-white, and 10 mm in length.
Adult	0.5-5.5 mm in length	Brown, humpbacked, dark eyes, wing veins easy to see, short antennae.
Pupa (if applicable)	5-6 mm long	Pupate in or near food source

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Sponging

Host /stored food products: *Megaselia scalaris* consume fecal matter, fungi, carrion, garbage, etc.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Considered a nuisance pest, they are quite common in homes, cemeteries, pet stores, and health care facilities. They are commonly brought in with fresh cut flowers and animal bedding. Due to the unsanitary places they frequent, it is assumed they carry a variety of pathogens that can be transferred easily via food.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Non-biting Flies- Phorid/Humpbacked/Coffin Flies. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (6.8.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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