

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Humpbacked fly; Phorid fly

Scientific Name: *Megaselia scalaris*

Order and Family: Diptera, Phoridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		Small white larvae
Adult	2-3mm	Yellow or yellowish-brown thorax, abdomen black above with yellow to white sections, and yellow legs
Pupa (if applicable)		Small, dorsoventrally flattened, with distinctive respiratory horns

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

Sponging mouthparts in adults

Host/s:

Can inhabit decaying carrion, plants, and dung.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Can be forensically important in PMI (postmortem interval) determinations.

This species has also been associated with varying types of myiasis (live tissue infestation), causing them to be a pest despite their forensic importance.

References:

Byrd, J. H., & Tomberlin, J. K. (2020). Forensic entomology: The utility of arthropods in legal investigations. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

Species *Megaselia scalaris*. (n.d.). Retrieved August 30, 2020, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/40695>