

Seeing spots: Another distinct spotted wing species of *Megaselia* RONDANI (Diptera: Phoridae) from Costa Rican cloud forests

[Flecken sehen: Eine weitere markante, mit Flügelflecken versehene Art von *Megaselia* RONDANI (Diptera: Phoridae) aus dem Nebelwald Costa Ricas]

by

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Abstract

A new species of *Megaselia* RONDANI, 1856 (Diptera: Phoridae), *Megaselia loisae* spec. nov., with a central, bubblelike wing spot is described from Costa Rica. The similarity to another recently described species, and the implications this has for species diversity in the Neotropical Region, are discussed.

Key words

Phoridae, *Megaselia*, Neotropical Region, Costa Rica, biodiversity, taxonomy, new species

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Art von *Megaselia* RONDANI, 1856 (Diptera: Phoridae), *Megaselia loisae* spec. nov., mit einem zentral gelegenen, blasenförmigen Flügelfleck wird aus Costa Rica beschrieben. Die Ähnlichkeit zu einer anderen, jüngst beschriebenen Art und die sich daraus ergebenden Konsequenzen für die Artenvielfalt in der neotropischen Region werden diskutiert.

Stichwörter

Phoridae, *Megaselia*, neotropische Region, Costa Rica, Biodiversität, Taxonomie, neue Art

Introduction

The genus *Megaselia* RONDANI is a phorid taxonomist's greatest challenge and worst nightmare. The group is so abundantly species-rich and diverse that even with the decades of work from taxonomists before us, we are left with only isolated pockets where the fauna is well known (DISNEY 1989). The New World fauna in general is poorly known, and in the Neotropical Region this problem is compounded by utterly overwhelming diversity. The presence of remarkable and distinct undescribed *Megaselia* (such as the one herein described and its recently described sister species, *M. shadeae* HARTOP, 2014) is a clear indicator of the enormity of the job looming before taxonomists. *Megaselia* is well known to dipterists as a genus of small brown flies that all look alike [with some rather notable exceptions like the infamous *M. scalaris* (LOEW)]. While taxonomists are slowly but surely getting down to the fundamental characters and conquering this genus one small region at a time (DISNEY 1989, HARTOP et al. 2015), even isolated collection events from the New World tropics may yield enough specimens for years of study. Therefore, with the fauna from this rich region, we must divide and conquer! As species and species-groups that are clearly identifiable are identified and described, we will move closer and closer to the core of the problem: all those small brown flies that look alike. The Neotropical *Megaselia* will not be conquered overnight; we must be persistent in our efforts to keep reducing the undescribed fauna until the core that is left is manageable and the mere possibility of a generic revision is in sight.

Dipteran biogeography is in its infancy; species turnover and areas of endemism in Central America are even less well known (AMORIM 2009). It is notable that *M. loisae* spec. nov., the species here described is a sister species to *M. shadeae*, a recently described species known from a site 180 kilometers away. Both sites are high altitude cloud forests, and both species were collected at altitudes of around 1600 meters. DEVRIES (1997: