

Note

The type series of *Megaselia mediterranea* Schmitz (Diptera: Phoridae) comprises two species

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Megaselia mediterranea Schmitz (1935) was described from two males from Palestine, but was subsequently synonymized with *M. palaestinensis* (Enderlein, 1933) by Schmitz (1941). *Megaselia palaestinensis* was recently synonymized with *M. curtineura* (Brues, 1909; Disney, 2010). It is now confirmed that the holotype of *M. mediterranea* is indeed *M. curtineura*, but the paratype is its sibling species, *M. microcurtineura* Disney (1991). This paratype is the first record of the species for Israel. Following is a clarification of the taxonomic status of the two valid species.

Megaselia curtineura (Brues, 1909)

- Aphiochaeta curtineura* Brues, 1909: 6.
- Aphiochaeta insulana* Brues, 1911: 542.
- Aphiochaeta variata* Malloch, 1912: 515.
- Aphiochaeta subfurcata* Brunetti, 1912: 508.
- Obelosia palaestinensis* Enderlein, 1933: 208.
- Megaselia koffleri* Schmitz, 1935: 11.
- Megaselia mediterranea* Schmitz, 1935: 15.
- Megaselia biformis* Brues, 1942: 155.

Megaselia curtineura is a widely distributed species in warm climates of the Old World, hence the number of synonyms. Its range has undoubtedly been extended by man. The original type series from Manila in the Philippines having been lost, a male from Malaysia, Penang, was subsequently designated as the neotype of *M. curtineura* (Disney, 1991).

Schmitz (1941) in a list of species after *M. palaestinensis*, added: “(Syn. *mediterranea* Schmitz, 1935)” without further comment. When I recently remounted on slides part of the *M. palaestinensis* type series (from Tel Aviv, Israel), I designated a lectotype and then synonymized *M. palaestinensis* with *M. curtineura* (Brues, 1909; Disney, 2011). As this species belongs to a complex of very similar species, I remounted the male paratype (Museum Koenig, Bonn (ZFMK)) of *M. mediterranea* on a slide. Rather than *M. curtineura*, it proved to be the very similar Afrotropical *M. microcurtineura*

Disney (1991). Both sexes of *M. curtineura* are readily distinguished from other species in this complex (see Disney, 2009) by the anteroventral spur of the hind tibia being at least 0.7 times as long as the ventral spur and almost as robust. Otherwise, details of the male hypopygia and female abdominal tergites differ among the different species (see key in Disney, 2009). I therefore borrowed the male holotype (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart (SMNS)) of *M. mediterranea*, which proved to be *M. curtineura*, thus confirming Schmitz's synonymy of *M. mediterranea* with *M. curtineura*.

Material Examined

Neotype ♂, MALAYSIA: Penang, Universiti Sains, ii.1976, ex dead *Achatina fulica*, R.A. Beaver (Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge (MZUC)); same data as holotype (1♂, 1♀; MZUC). ASCENSION ISLAND, iii–iv.1990, v.1995, P. Ashmole (11♂, 23♀; MZUC). CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, 1989 and 2006, P. Ashmole (4♂, 3♀; MZUC). INDIA: Assam, ix.1982, N. Krishnasamy (2♂, 2♀; MZUC); Jodhpur, 1982, CIE (1♂, 3♀; MZUC). ISRAEL: 1♂ lectotype, 3♂, 2♀ cotypes of *M. palaestinensis*, Tel Aviv, 16.ix.1932, A. Barasch (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (ZMHB)); holotype ♂ of *M. mediterranea*, Rehovot [Rehoboth], 31.x.1931, J. Aharoni (SMNS); Petah-Tiqwa [Petach-Tiqwa], 29.vii.1987, ex dead beetle, Y. Nussbaum (1♂, 2♀; MZUC); same locality, 5.viii.1989, Y. Nussbaum (1♀; MZUC); IVORY COAST: Dropleu, 2.iv.1977, J.P. Gouteux (1♂; MZUC); LIBYA: Tripoli, ix.1978, ex dead crustacea, CIE (1♀; MZUC); Tripoli, viii.1978, ex. caterpillar, CIE (1♀; MZUC); MALI: Kogoni, ex moth pupae, 18.ix.1993, A. Hamadoun (2♂, 2♀; MZUC); MOZAMBIQUE, iii.1981, CIE (1♂; MZUC); SAUDI ARABIA: Riyadh district, 6.ix.1978, W. Büttiker (1♂; MZUC); SÉNÉGAL: Ferlo Fété-olé, x.1976–i.1977, G. Couturier (10♂, 4♀; MZUC); SOUTH AFRICA: Transvaal, Parfuri, 20.i.1979, L. Braack (2♀; MZUC); UGANDA: Waskiso District, 10.ix and 6.xii.2001, A. Polaszek (1♂, 1♀; MZUC); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Sharjah Desert Park, xii.2004, ii–iv and xii.2005, A. van Harten (1♂, 2♀; MZUC); Fujairah, iv.2006, A. van Harten (1♂; MZUC); ST HELENA: ix–x.2003, P. Ashmole (1♂; MZUC); SRI LANKA: Peradeniya, 19.i.1978, R.H.L. Disney (2♂; MZUC); YEMEN: 1992, 2001, 2003, 2002, A. van Harten (3♂, 3♀; MZUC).

Megaselia microcurtineura Disney, 1991

Megaselia microcurtineura Disney, 1991: 29.

Megaselia mediterranea Schmitz, 1935: 15 (paratype only). Misidentification.

The recognition that the paratype of *M. mediterranea* is not the same species as the holotype but rather is the primarily Afrotropical *M. microcurtineura*, means that *M. microcurtineura* is now added to the list of Phoridae recorded from Israel. Both sexes of *M. curtineura* and *M. microcurtineura* have recently been keyed (Disney, 2009).

Material Examined

Holotype ♂, ZIMBABWE: Binga District, 23.vi.1988, C. Tingle (MZUC); same data as holotype, vi.1988 (6♂, 4♀; MZUC); Paratype ♂ of *M. mediterranea*, ISRAEL:

Rehoboth, 31.x.1931, J. Aharoni (ZFMK); IVORY COAST: Dropleu, 2.iv.1977, J.P. Gouteux (1♂; MZUC); SÉNÉGAL: near Tambacounda, xii.1975, G. Couturier (1♂; MZUC); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, Wadi Wurayah, 12–14.iv.2005, A. van Harten (1♂, 4♀; MZUC); Wadi Madaq, 26.x–9.xi.2006, A. van Harten (1♂; MZUC); Wadi Safad, v.2006 (1♂, 1♀; MZUC); SSW of ad-Dhaid, xii.2005, A. van Harten (1♂; MZUC); YEMEN: NW of Manakhah, vii–viii.2001, viii–ix.2003, A. van Harten (4♂, 2♀; MZUC); Al Kowd, ix.1999, A. van Harten (1♂; MZUC); Lahj, v.2000, A. van Harten. (1♂; MZUC); and numerous specimens from Arabia, Israel (see above), and Mainland Africa, south of the Sahara.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am much indebted to Dr. Hans-Peter Tschorsnig (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart) and Dr. Netta Dorchin (Museum Koenig, Bonn) for the loan of type material in their care. My studies of Phoridae are currently supported by a grant from the Balfour-Browne Trust Fund (University of Cambridge).

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