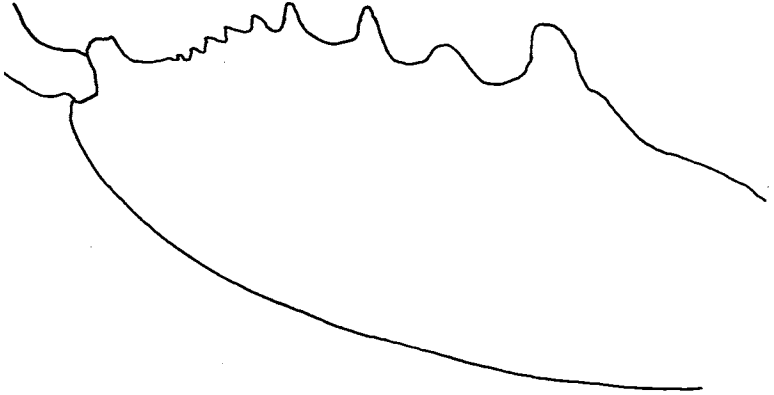


apex growing very minute; the whole femur unusually slender. Length 8-10 mm.

The abdominal petiole is unusually well set off from the gaster, with strongly bulging sides and is quite different in this respect from the condition usually prevailing in *Leucospis*. One other species, *L. muiri* Brues, from Laloki, Papua, shows a tendency in this direction in the male, but the sides are much more nearly parallel.



Dentition of hind femur of *Leucospis antiqua* Walker, ♂. Highly enlarged.

On account of the unusual shape of the abdomen the male of *Leucospis antiqua* resembles in a very striking way a vespid wasp, a resemblance which is heightened by the color pattern. The wasp, which is also practically of the same size of the *Leucospis* has been identified by Professor Joseph Bequaert as *Pachymenes quodi* (Vachal).

A Species of Phoridae Bred in Hawaii From the Immigrant African Land Snail (*Achatina Fulica*)

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(Presented by Mr. Swezey at the meeting of December 22, 1941)

In various parts of the world there are numerous species of small flies of the family Phoridae that have been found associated with terrestrial gastropod mollusks. The majority of these undoubtedly develop in snails already dead from some other cause; some probably occur in the slimy exudate of living hosts, and there is reason

to suspect, but without conclusive proof, that some may be true internal parasites of living snails. Mr. E. H. Bryan, Jr., sent me recently four specimens of a very small, winged species that were bred by one of his associates at B. P. Bishop Museum, Yoshio Kondo, from a dead example of the large African snail, *Achatina fulica*. After a careful examination of four specimens, including both sexes, it appears that this phorid is undoubtedly undescribed. It is quite similar to the European *Megaselia pygmaea*, known to occur also in a number of widely separated regions, but is obviously distinct. A further search to identify it with any other species of this large, cosmopolitan genus has failed, and though there is a very considerable chance that its original provenience is not Hawaii, it seems appropriate to describe it at this time since we know something of its habits and structurally it is easily identified.

***Megaselia* (*s. str.*) *biformis* sp. nov.**

♀. Length 1.4 mm. Black, with the thorax reddish brown and distinctly lighter on the pleurae and coxae; abdomen with the basal four tergites rather broadly margined with yellowish white behind. Legs testaceous or luteous; hind femora black at apex and their tibiae blackened at the extreme tip. Antennae reddish brown; palpi light yellow. Front approximately as high as wide; four postantennal bristles of equal size, those of the upper pair twice as far apart as those of the lower pair; antial bristles midway between the upper postantennals and the eye-margin, well below the lowest lateral bristle which is close to the eye; middle row of frontal bristles equidistant, the median pair higher than the lateral ones and twice as far from the upper postantennals as from the ocellar bristles. Surface not shining, glaucous. Antennae small, with weakly pubescent arista; palpi small, with moderately strong bristles. Propleura with a bristle at its upper angle, another next to the coxa and a scattering series of much weaker ones along the hind margin between those. Mesonotum moderately shining, with a single pair of dorsocentral bristles. Scutellum with four large marginal bristles. Mesopleura entirely bare. Abdominal tergites fully formed, none of them narrowed, the second without any bristly hairs at the sides; second to fifth of approximately equal length, their posterior margins practically straight, except the fifth which is broadly rounded. Middle and hind tibiae with a single row of bristles lying inside the hairseam; those of the middle pair weak; those of the hind tibiae very weak on the basal third but longer beyond where their length is equal to two-thirds the width of the tibia. Wings rather long and narrow; costa distinctly less than one-third the wing length (17:57), its fringe short at the base, but much longer toward apex where the bristles are as long as the second vein. First section of costa twice as long as the second and third combined, the third section very short as the cell between the second and third veins is extremely minute; fourth vein curved upwards at its apical third, but nearly straight elsewhere, fifth vein indistinctly sinuate, almost straight; sixth more clearly sinuate; sixth vein distinct. Halteres pale yellow.

♂. Similar to the female, but somewhat darker in color, especially the antennae. Scutellum with only two bristles, the lateral pair reduced to extremely minute hairs. Wings somewhat broader. Costa exactly one-third as long as the wing (15:45); first section slightly less than twice as long as the second and third combined.

Type and three paratypes (two females and one male) from Honolulu, Hawaii, February, 1941, reared from a dead specimen of *Achatina fulica* (Y. Kondo).

There are a few species of *Megaselia* in which the female possesses four large scutellar bristles while the male has the anterior pair reduced to small hairs. None of the forms of this type where both sexes are known resemble the present species at all closely in other characters. Aside from this peculiarity *M. biformis* differs from *M. pygmaea* Zett. by the equal postantennal bristles and by the wide, completely formed abdominal tergites, which also serve to distinguish it from *M. latericia* Schmitz. The European *M. pygmaeoides* Lundb. likewise differs by its unequal postantennal bristles as well as in the length of the costal vein. From *M. angustata* Schmitz from the Canary Islands it is distinct by the equally strong postantennal bristles and much shorter costal vein. The pale halteres serve to distinguish it from several other species with very short costal vein. Several other forms associated with mollusks, like the African *M. michaelis* Schmitz, are structurally not at all similar and the same is true of *M. curtineura* Brues from the Philippines which is superficially similar on account of its short costal vein. The last species was found breeding in culture media which were presumably contaminated with fungi or bacteria.

Senior-White has described *Megaselia achatinae* (*Spolia Zeylanica*, vol. 12, p. 401 (1924)) as bred from a dead *Achatina* snail from Ceylon. Unfortunately his description is utterly inadequate to place the species, although from the size and color it may be the ubiquitous *M. xanthina* Speiser which is widespread and abundant in this region.