



The first *Rhynchomicropteron* Annandale, 1912 (Diptera, Phoridae) species from the Palearctic region, with taxonomic and faunistic notes on the fauna of Israel

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Abstract

The first Palearctic species of the genus *Rhynchomicropteron* Annandale, 1912, *R. kuslitzkyi* **sp. n.**, is described from Israel. Another five species of Phoridae (*Gymnophora arcuata* (Meigen, 1830), *Metopina heselhausi* Schmitz, 1914, *Microselia rivierae* Schmitz, 1934, *Peromitra cephalotes* (Schmitz, 1922), *Peromitra erythrocerata* (Meigen, 1830)) are recorded as new to the fauna of Israel. The previously unknown male of *Microselia rivierae* is described, diagnostic characters of males of the genus *Microselia* Schmitz, 1934 are discussed.

Key words: Diptera, Phoridae, *Rhynchomicropteron*, *Microselia*, new species, Israel

Introduction

The Phoridae fauna of Israel is poorly known. Before the checklist published by Disney & Nussbaum (1990), there were only scattered data from the country, most importantly by Freidberg (1988), Schmitz (1932, 1935, 1941, 1943, 1951, 1952, 1958) and Schmitz & Beyer (1965). Disney & Nussbaum (1990) reported 36 species new to Israel. With these the total number of the species recorded from the country increased to 47, which is obviously far from the true species richness of the Phoridae in this country.

Data for 12 species are provided for the fauna of Israel in the present paper, six of which were not known previously from Israel. *Rhynchomicropteron kuslitzkyi* **sp. n.** is described as new and the formerly unknown male of *Microselia rivierae* Schmitz, 1934 is described for the first time.

Material and methods

One part of the specimens were collected by Malaise traps on sand dunes in Nizzanim, Western Israel during 2004–2005 (Pont & Grach 2008), the others in Herzliyya and Ma'gan Mikha'el (Fig. 1). The codes (A–D) by the specimens collected in Nizzanim refers to the grade of the vegetation cover and the geomorphological stability level of the sand dunes (A—refers to moving sand dunes with low vegetation cover (10–11%), D—fixed sand dunes with 33% covering).

All the specimens are deposited in the Natural History Collections of the Tel-Aviv University (TAU), Israel.

For studies of the male genitalia I followed the method of Papp (2008): the genitalia were broken from the abdomen with a sharp pin into a small dish filled with warm water. When the genitalia submerged, they were then dropped into hot (~100 C°) vial filled with 10% sodium hydroxid solution for a few minutes (depending on how heavily sclerotised the genitalia are—they must be checked often). When they became translucent enough, they were rinsed with water, neutralized in lactic acid, rinsed again with water and finally dropped into glycerol for microscopic study.