

A Bug's Life

Phorid fly

Family: Phoridae
Megaselia scalaris

Fun facts

- Also called humpbacked flies due to appearance, scuttle flies referring to the way they run on surfaces, and coffin flies because they are a pest in mausoleums
- Survive year-round indoors
- Associated with putrid, moist, decaying organic matter like food, trash, or sewage

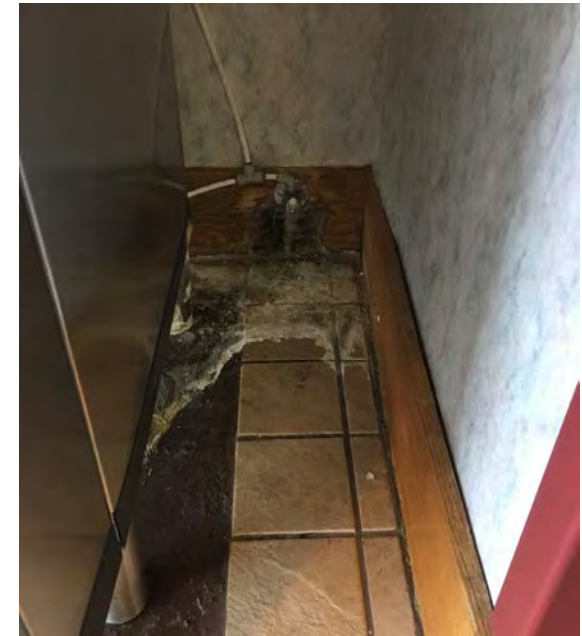
Identification

Habitat: Decaying organic matter of plant or animal origin, may indicate plumbing issue such as broken drain or septic, sludge in sewer lines

Adult: 1/8" in size, dark to light brown to yellow, humped back, small head, dark eyes, no cross-veins, long hind legs

Management

- Locate source of decaying organic material (rotting food) and discard it
- If problem is not visible, inspect for cracks, gaps, and holes along baseboards and floor
- Contact licensed plumber to scope drain lines for cracks or collapsed lines
- If contaminated soil is found under the structure, it must be excavated



Photos: J. Green