

Species

Recognition of some misidentifications and of three new species of Palaearctic scuttle flies (Diptera: Phoridae)

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General Note



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ABSTRACT

The recognition of Aenigmatiasdorni (Enderlein) is clarified. A.pyrenaicum (Becker) is rescued from synonymy with A. dorni.A.necdornisp. nov. is described from Poland. A.marinaaesp. nov. and A. taigaensissp. nov. are described from Russia. Megaseliaintrolapsa Schmitz is synonymized with M. xanthozona (Strobl), the identity of M. monochaeta (Strobl) is clarified and distinguished from M. riefi Brenner. M. quintincisa Disney is synonymized with M. subnudipennis (Schmitz).

Keywords: Diptera, Phoridae, Aenigmatias, Megaselia, new species, new synonyms



1. INTRODUCTION

The advance in knowledge of scuttle flies (Diptera, Phoridae) continually reveals new species and synonyms. The latter often result from males and females having been assigned to different species. Sometimes the male and a female of different species have been assigned to a single species. Sometimes the incorrect recognition of new species has been due to the range of variation being such that different individuals run down in different places in existing keys. In this paper I report on recently recognized examples of these confusions.

2. REPORT

What is Aenigmatiasdorni (Enderlein)

The ancient genus *Aenigmatias* Meinert has several species known from the Eocene (Brown, 2016). Today's species are parasitoids of ant pupae or adults. I provided the most recent key to the males of these species (Disney, 2002). Two American species has since been added (Disney et al., 2011, Disney, 201x). The flightless females remain unknown for several species. In dealing with a further new European species (Jancík & Disney, 201x) it was necessary to compare it with specimens attributed to *A. Dorni* (Enderlein, 1908). This highlighted problems with recognition of *A. dorni*.

THE RECOGNITION OF AENIGMATIAS DORNI

There are two problems with the recognition of Enderlein's species. First, his collection of Phoridae was destroyed by a bomb in the Second World War. Second, he described the species from the female only. Schmitz's (1941) Textfig. 72 reproduced Enderlein's figure of his female. A feature in this figure invites comparison with other females. This is considered below. The greatest width of the thorax is about 1.4 times the width of the head. I have borrowed slide mounts (from the Museum Koenig, Bonn) of a female illustrated (without scale bars) by Schmitz (1955, Textfigs 209 & 210) and report its ratio to be 1.38. For the female of the species attributed to A. dorniby Gotô & Takeno (1983), later assigned it to A. gotoi Disney (2002) based on a pair caught in copula, and kindly donated by Gotô. For this female the equivalent ratio is 1.9 times. The specimens identified as A. dorni by Michailovskaya (2004a & b) were based on a pair caught in copula on 15-16.vii.2000 and 2 males and 2 females, from the same locality, caught on 21-31.vii.2000. For the female caught in copula the ratio is 2.0. For the later 2 females the ratios were 1.65 and 1.67. It is concluded that the female illustrated by Schmitz is the same as Enderlein's figure. This is the species associated with the ant Formica rufibarbis Fabricius.

Currently species recognition is primarily based on males. Species similar to *A. dorni* have the basal half or more of the hind femur straw yellow and brown palps. These males all have hypopygia that are essentially the same, apart from *A. lubbockii*, whose upper posterior process of the epanndrium is distinctly, but somewhat variably, more tapered than in the rest of this complex (Figures 3A & B). 5 males of *A. lubbockii* from England and one from Norway indicate the following ranges of variation. The length of the front basitarsus divided by the length of the front tibia ranges from 0.59 to 0.69 (mean 0.64); the number of axillary bristles from 6 to 12 (mean 8-9) and the number of hairs on vein 3 from 5 to 17 (mean 9). This serves to exclude all the rest of the complex except for *Aenigmatiaspyrenaicum* (Becker). This species was synonymised with *A. dorni* (Disney, 2002) before it was realized that Schmitz's (1941) description of this species embraced more than one species. Having re-examined the holotype of *A. pyrenaicum* (Museum fürNaturkunde, Berlin) it is herewith rescued from synonymy with *A. dorni*.

The question arises as to the identity of the males of the two Russian species and other males attributed to *A. dorni*. In the key to males (Disney, 2002) at first sight these can be divided into two groups based on the number of axillary bristles on the wing. Some have 6 bristles but others have 9-12 axillary bristles as in Schmitz's (1956) Taf.VIII Fig. 91. The Russian male caught *in copula* has 6 bristles but the other two Russian males have 9-12 bristles. The new species from Slovakia (*A. exregina* Disney) and a male from Poland both have 6 bristles. The number of hairs on vein 3 also varies from 6 to 34. To evaluate the reliability of these variable features the following specimens of *A. lubbockii* (Verrall) have been considered. 3 males from Norfolk associated with 2 females, a male from Berkshire and a male and 3 associated females from Norway. The axillary bristles number 6-12, the vein 3 hairs 5-17.

A less variable character in the males of this genus is the ratio of the length of the basitarsus to that of the front tibia. For the above *A. lubbockii* it is 0.59-0.67. For the male of *A. gotoi* caught *in copula* the ratio is 0.86. Schmitz (1956) reported this ratio to be 0.75-0.80 for 'A. dorni'. In the new species from Slovakia, the Russian species caught *in copula* and a male from Poland this ratio is 0.73-0.74. For the other males from Russia the ratio is 0.82-0.85.

A further consideration is that Schmitz (1955) gives the ant hosts as *Formica glebaria* Nylander and *Formica rufibarbis*. Neither of these ant species is recorded from the Far East of Russia. This reinforces the perception that at least two species covered by Schmitz were being confused.

It is concluded the *A. dorni* of Schmitz (1955) represents at least two species and likewise with those attributed to *Adorni* by Michailovskaya (2004a & b). The newly recognized species are described below and the recognition of the true *A. dorni* clarified.

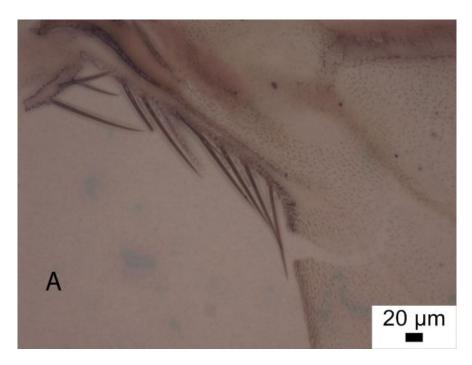


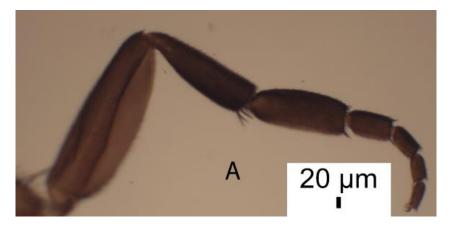


Figure 1 Aenigmatiasdorni male. A, wing base; B, vein 3.

Aenigmatiasdorni (Enderlein) (Figure 1)

Oniscomyiadorni Enderlein, 1908: 148 (female).

Diagnosis. Male. Front basitarsus 0.75-0.8 times as long as tibia. Wing with 9-12 axillary bristles (Figure 1A) and vein 3 about 2 dozen hairs (Figure 1B). Female. Width of thorax is less than 1.6 times the width of head. Front basitarsus 0.54 times as long as tibia. Material examined. Slide mounts of wing from male, Netherlands, Sittard, with *Formica rufibarbis* (Museum Koenig, Bonn, 000-40-481) and of female, *Luxemburg*, 17.vii.1902, from *F. rufibarbis*, *P. Kohl leg* (Museum Koenig, Bonn. 000-40-474). Ant host. *Formica rufibarbis* Fabricius.





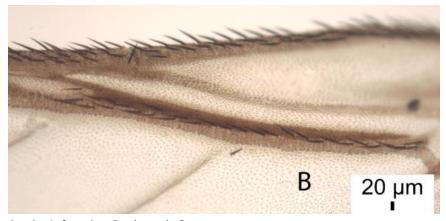
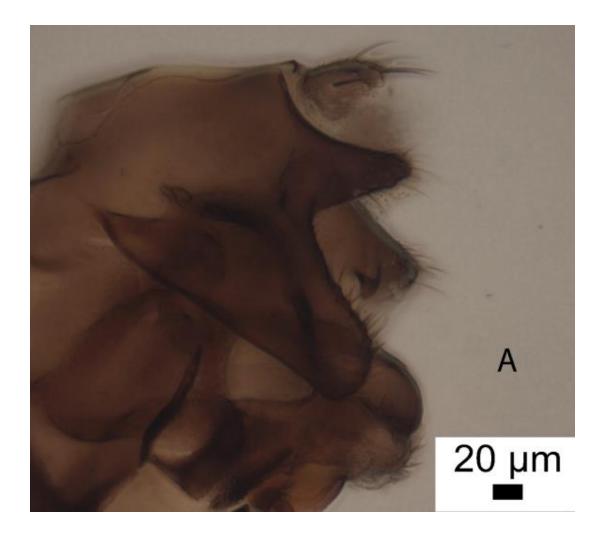


Figure 2 Aenigmatiasgotoi male. A, front leg; B, wing vein 3.

Aenigmatiasgotoi Disney (Figure2)

Aenigmatiasgotoi Disney, 2002: 69.

Diagnosis. Male. Front basitarsus 0.86 times as long as front tibia (Figure 2A). With 6-7 axillary bristles. With about 30 hairs on vein 3 (Figure 2B). Female. Width of thorax 1.9-2.0 times width of head. Front basitarsus 0.45-0.50 as long as tibia. Material examined. Paratype male and female (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology).



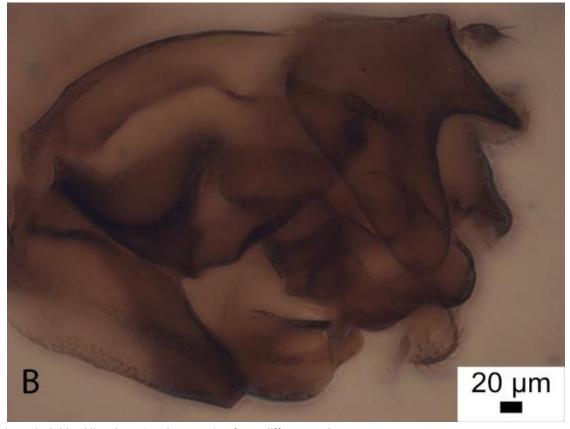


Figure 3 Aenigmatiaslubbockii male. A & B, hypopygia of two different males

Aenigmatiaslubbockii (Verrall) (Figure3)

Platyphoralubbockii Verrall, 1877: 260 (male).

Aenigmatiasblattoides Meinert, 1890: 213 (female).

var. highlandicus Schmitz, 1914: 543.

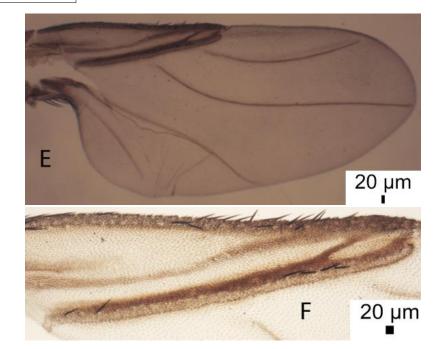
Aenigmatiaslubbocki (Verrall). Schmitz, 1929: 6. Incorrect spelling (cited by Borgmeier, 1968 and subsequent authors). Chandler, 1998: 97.

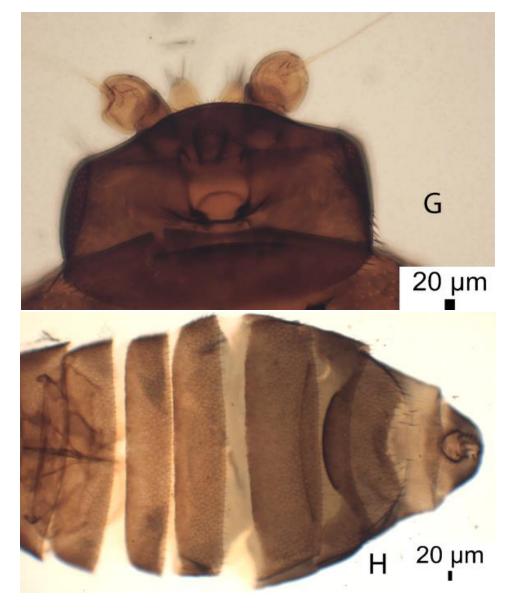












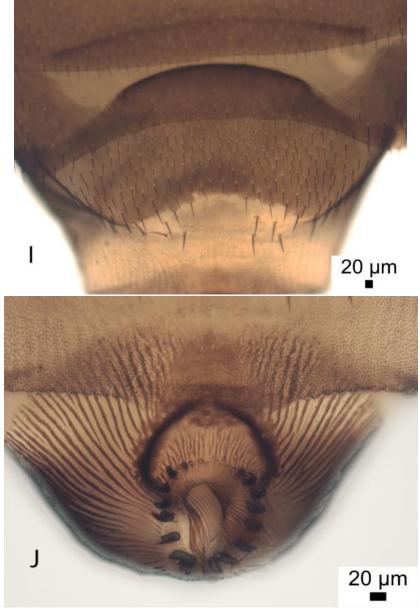


Figure 4 Aenigmatiasmarinaae. A-F, male. A; antennae and palps; B-C, hypopygium; D, front leg; E, wing; F, vein 3.G-J, female. G, head; H, abdomen; I, tergite 6; J, tail end

The Figs 14-17 in Disney (1983a) were based on voucher specimens in the Hope Entomolgical collections, Oxford University. Diagnosis. Male. Epandrium with tapered upper posterior process (Figures 3A & B). Front basitarsus 0.59-0.67 as long as front tibia. 6-12 axillary bristles, 5-17 hairs on vein 3 (Figure 3C).

Material examined. 5 males, 3 females from England (4 males, 2 females (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology).1 male, 2, females from Norway (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology).

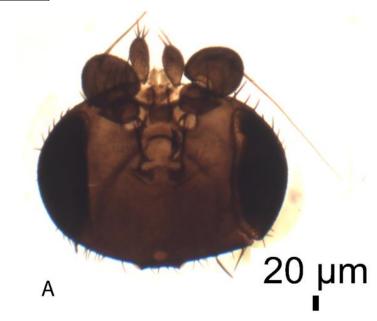
Ant host. Formica fusca Linnaeus.

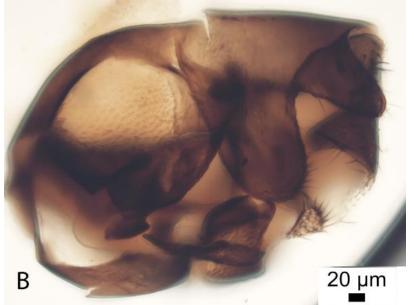
Aenigmatiasmarinaae Sp. nov. (Figure 4)

Diagnosis.Male. Front basitarsus 0.73-0.74 times as long as tibia. Wing with 6 axillary bristles and vein 3 with 2 dozen hairs. Male. Antennae and palps as Figure 4A.Hypopygium as Figures 4B & C. Front leg as Figure 4D. Wing (Figure 4E) 2.3-2.4 mm long. Costal index 0.54. Vein 3 as Figure 4F.

Female.Width of thorax is less than 2.0 times the width of head. Front basitarsus 0.40 times as long as tibia.

Material examined. Holotype Male, RUSSIA, PrimorskiyKrai, Gornotayozhnoe, Mountain Taiga Station, 43°63′N, 132°25′E, 15-16.vii.2000, M. V. Michailovskaya (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology). Paratype female caught *in copula* with holotype. Etymology. Named after Marina Michailovskaya who collected the specimens.







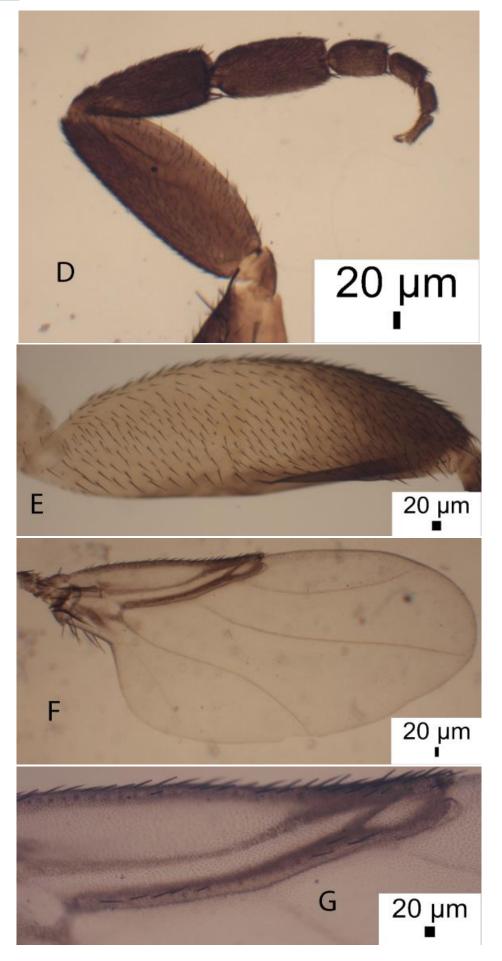


Figure 5 *Aenigmatiasnecdorni* male A-G. A, head; B-C, hypopygium; D, front leg; E, hind femur; F, wing; G, vein 3. H, *A. Exregina* hypopygium

Aenigmatiasnecdorni sp. nov. (Figure 5)

Aenigmatiasdorni Schmitz, 1955: 364. Misidentifications in part.

Aenigmatiasdorni (Enderlein, 1908: 143). Michailovskaya, 2004a: 44. Misidentifications in part.

Diagnosis. Male.Front basitarsus 0.81 times as long as tibia. Wing with 6 axillary bristles and vein 3 about a dozen hairs. The hypopygium closest to *A. exregina* (Figure 5H).

Male. Figure 5A, head. Figures 5B-C, hypopygium. Figure 5D, front leg. Figure E, hind femur. Wing (Figure 5F) 2.1 mm long. Costal index 0.50. Vein 3 as Figure 5G.

Material examined. HOLOTYPE male, POLAND, Polanla, Inowrocton-Mgtwy Stonowiska, 30.iv.1972, R. Szadziewski (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology)

Etymology. Named after being confused with A. dorni.



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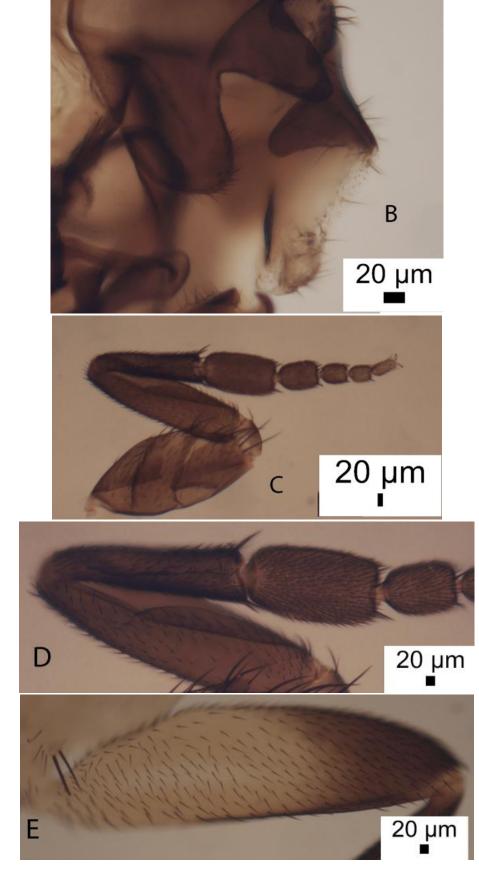


Figure 6 Aenigmatiaspyrenaicum male. A, head; B, hypopygium; specimens; C, front leg; D, front tibia and tarsal segments 1-2; E, hind femur; F, wing base.

Aenigmatiaspyrenaicum Becker) (Figure 6)

Psalidesmapyrenaicum Becker, 1912: 330 (male).

This species is herewith rescued from synonym with A. dorni.

In the holotype vein 2 is reduced to a remnant at its base so that vein 3 is unforked. This is undoubtedly a developmental fault. Among the males of A. lubbockii examined (see above) one has vein 2 incomplete distally, but the specimen is otherwise typical of that species.

Diagnosis. Male.Front basitarsus 0.64 times as long as tibia. Wing 2.27 mm long, costal index 0.51, with 6 axillary bristles and vein 3 with 17 hairs. Hypopygium as Figure 6B.

Material examined. HOLOTYPE male, FRANCE, Pyrenees, Cauterets, 14.VII.1901 (Museum fürNaturkunde, Berlin).

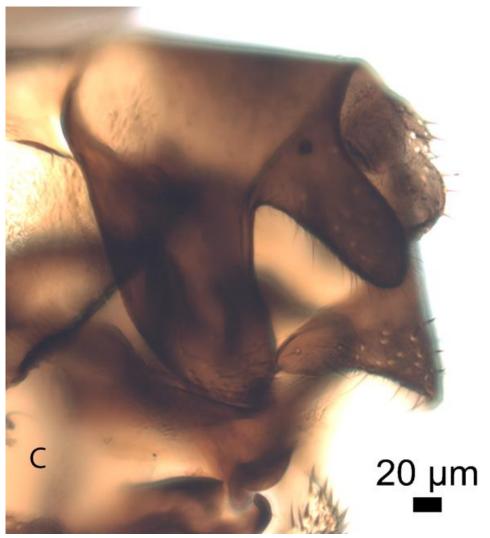
Aenigmatiastaigaensis. Sp. nov. (Figure 7)

The number hairs on vein 3 of the two males are 14 in one and 33 in the other. The upper lobe of the epandrium is a little different in the two males (Figures 7B & C). In the distinctive A. Lubbockii this process also differs a little (Figures 3A &B). Otherwise the two males appear to be the same but somewhat variable species with regard to the hairs on vein 3. It is, however, possible that these represent a pair of sibling species. The use of molecular barcodes for further specimens (based on middle legs detached before the rest of the specimens are slide mounted) would be likely to resolve this.









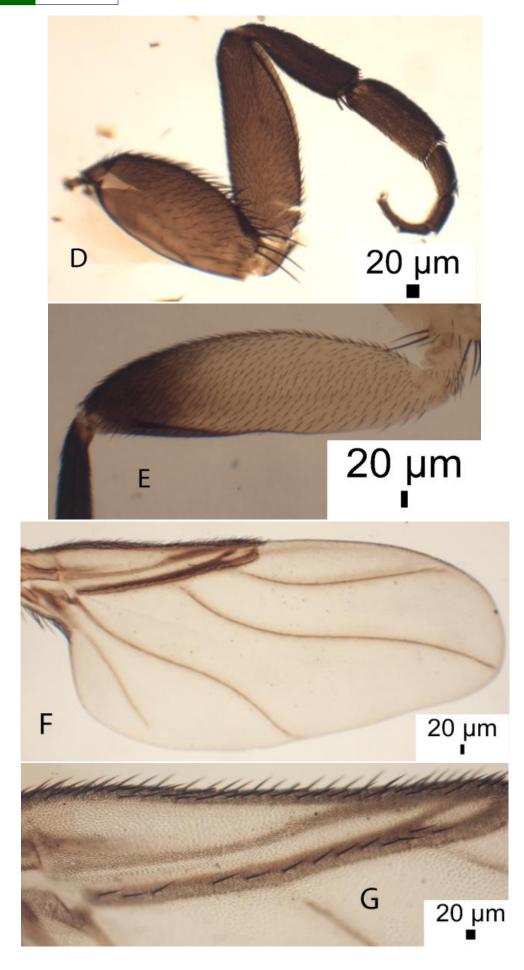




Figure 7 Aenigmatiastaigaensis. A-G, male:-A, head; B-C, left faces of hypopygia of two different specimens; D, front leg; E,hind femur; F, wing; G-H; vein 3 of two different specimens; H-J, Female:- H, whole fly; I, abdominal tergite 6; J, tail end.

Diagnosis. Front basitarsus 0.82-0.85 times as long as tibia. With 9-12 axillary bristles. Wing with 10 axillary bristles and vein 3 with 2-3 dozen hairs.

Male. Figure 7A, head; Figures 7B-C, hypopygia of two different specimens; Figure 7D, front leg; Figure 7E, hind femur; Wing (Figure 7F) 2.3-2.4 mm long. Costal index 0.49-0.51.With 14-33 hairs on vein3 (Figures 7G & H) and 9-12 axillary bristles.

Female. Figure 7I, dorsal view; Figure 7J, tergite 6, Figure 7K, tail end.

Material examined. HOLOTYPE male, RUSSIA, Primorskiy Krai, Gornotayozhnoe, Mountain Taiga Station, 43°63′N,132°25′E, 21-31.vii.2000, M. V. Michailovskaya (University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology). Paratypes, 1male, 2 females, as Holotype. Etymology. Named after the type locality Mountain Taiga Station.

Key to the males of the *Aenigmatiasdorni* species complex Couplet 8 of the key to males (Disney, 2002) is rewritten thus:-

1 Ratio of length of front basitarsus to length tibia less than 0.7
2. The upper posterior lobe of the epaandrium typically gradually tapers to a roundedtip (e.g. Figures 4B&6B)
3Axillary ridge with only 6-7 bristles
4Ratio of length of front basitarsus tolength of tibia less than 0.77
5Less than 15 hairs on vein 3 7

6Upper epandrial lobe less tapered (Figure 5B). Costal index 0.50... A. necdorni

- This lobe more tapered (Figure 5H). Costal index 0.54-0.56............. A. exregina

More than 15 hairs on vein 3. (Epandrial lobes as Figure 4B).......A. marinaae

- 7 Vein 3 with at most28 hairs......8
- Vein 3 with at least28 hairs. taigaensis
- 8 Vein 3 with at most 18 hairs..... taigaensis

Megaseliamonochaeta (Strobl) (Figure 8)

Phoramonochaeta Strobl, 1892: 202.

This species is poorly known but was rescued from synonymy (Disney, 1999). A lectotype male (in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Admont, Austria) had previously been designated (Disney, 1983b). However, on remounting the syntype female on a slide it proved to be an entirely different species belonging to Schmitz & Beyer's (1965) Abteilung V, Zweite Reihe, but failing to run down in their key that is primarily based on males. However, it clearly does not belong to the *M. angusta*complex.

The lectotype was from Austria. Published records from Italy and Spain evidently require confirmation. Indeed, specimensfrom Spain assigned to this species by Garcia-Romera & Barrientos (2014) correctly keyed their males to couplet 10 in my 1999 key, where the choice is between the longest hairs below the basal half of the hind femur are subequal in length to the maximum width of the hind tibia as opposed to being shorter. They opted for the first option. However, in a sample of their males kindly sent to me the hind femur hairs measure 0.06-0.07 mmcompared with 0.08- 0.09 mm for the hind tibia width. Subsequent to my 1999 paper I wondered whether the internal subcutaneous pit sensilla (SPS vesicles) of the antennal postpedicel reported by Pfeil *et al.* (1994) might be a useful taxonomic character. This has proved to be the case. They are either present or absent and when present vary in



number and size. In the case of the lectotype of *M. monochaeta* it lacks SPS vesicles (Figure8A). In the above specimens from Spain, assigned to this species by Garcia-Romera & Barrientos (2014), they are present in numbers (Fig. 8B) and this species proved to be *M. riefi* Brenner (2006), which is immediately distinguished by the SPS vesicles in its postpedicels (Figure 8B).

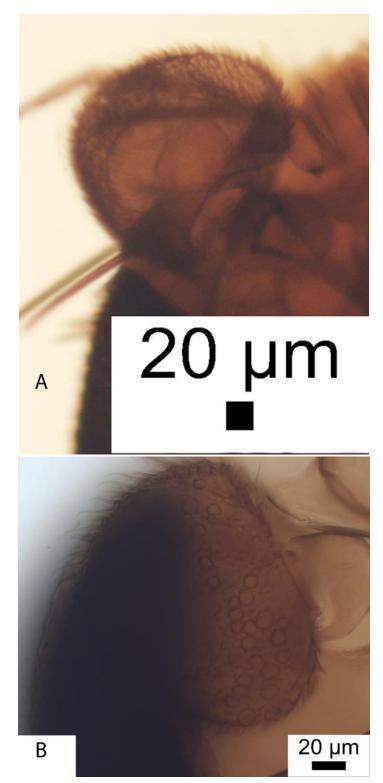


Figure 8 Postpedicels of Megaseliamonochaeta and M. riefi males. A, M. monochaeta; B,M. riefi.

Megaseliasubnudipennis (Schmitz)

Aphiochaetasubnudipennis Schmitz, 1919: 117. Megaseliaquintincisa Disney, 2006: 88. Syn. nov. In Beyer's (1965) keys to Afrotropical species most specimens run to the section on pages 56 and 57, covering species with a short costa. This omits species described by Collin (1912), does not allow for variation in the costal index and some couplets contrast males with females. Furthermore his 'M. punctata'is a misidentification as it is not the same as M. punctataBridarolli. As a result of these confusions I mistakenly described specimens from the United Arab Emirates as a new species. I now formally designate M. quintincisa as a synonym of M. subnudipennis.

Megaseliaxanthozona (Strobl)

Phoraxanthozona Strobl, 1892: 203.

Megaseliaeuryprocta Schmitz, 1957: 234. Disney & Nussbaum, 1990: 112.

Megaseliaintrolapsa Schmitz, 1937: 121 (male). Syn. nov.

I have scrutinized the description and the keys of Schmitz (1958). His distinctions between *Megaseliaintrolaspa* Schmitz from *M. xanthozona* (Strobl) are poor and he omits reference to critical features of his species. I have therefore examined the following males attributed to Strobl's species:- 5 from Spain, 2 from Yemen, 1 from Israel, 1 from Italy and 2 from Algeria. On the basis of these comparisons I here with synonymies *M. introlapsa* with *M. xanthozona*. More recent figures of *M.xanthozona* are provided in Disney (2009)

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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