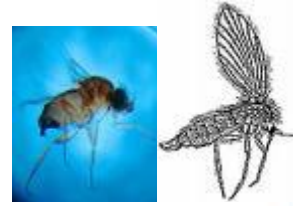


Phorid Flies

(Humpbacked Fly)



Phorid flies are found worldwide, frequently around flowers and moist decaying matter. Because they often have contact with unsanitary places they may transport various disease-causing organisms to food material.



Phorid flies are often mistaken for fruit flies, however, they have a characteristic hump which fruit flies do not and they lack the red eyes of the fruit fly. They also have a habit of running rapidly across a surface rather than taking to wing.

An interesting benefit of phorid flies is they are a natural enemy of the fire ant, which is a major problem in some southern states. The phorid fly larva actually decapitates the fire ant's head. Since we don't have fire ants in the Pacific Northwest the fly is more a negative, being a nuisance and potential disease spreader.

Phorid flies can be a major problem around commercial kitchens. They like to breed in drains and in decaying matter under equipment. Leaks and organic matter that builds up under slabs can be a major source of infestations. The major control factor is sanitation. You must eliminate the source of the breeding flies.



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