

## PHOTOSTORY

*Physiphora alceae* (Ulidiidae) Diptera with pseudoscorpion passengers



01. *Physiphora alceae* Ulidiidae Diptera with pseudoscorpion passengers. Martin Smith

**Photographed near Defford 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 (01) by Martin Smith who wrote:**

“I have no idea of species or even family for this small fly (I estimate about 7 or 8 mm at most) although the banded eyes look interesting. It landed briefly on the open tailgate of my car yesterday. Although it was a small fly something about it looked odd to my naked eye so I took a quick image (01) before it flew off. I could then see that it had three Pseudoscorpions hitching a ride. Quite a load although it soon zipped away seemingly quite happily”.

**Mick Blythe commented on the image:**

“The fly is *Physiphora alceae* (Ulidiidae). I photographed one from the great dungheap a couple of years ago and that one also had Pseudoscorpions hanging onto its legs”. [The dungheap referred to is near Wyre Forest. It is organic and Mick Blythe and others have been studying its invertebrates].

**Liam Andrews commented:**

Regarding the photo the Pseudoscorpion appears to only have one groove on the thorax making it likely to be *Lamprochernes* spp possibly *nodosus* but it's tricky to tell from this image alone.

**Comment**

Many Pseudoscorpions travel by phoresy – hitching a lift on insects.

**Image**

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