

About 100 species are known world-wide. With 17 recognized species, the fauna of Israel is one of the richest in the world. There are two main genera in Israel, *Asteia* and *Phlebosotera* (Freidberg 1984a), with some undescribed species. Records of known species indicate a mostly Mediterranean distribution with a tendency toward eremic habitats.

52. \**Xenasteiidae*

This family was recently erected by Hardy (1980), based on one genus (*Xenasteia*) and seven species. Each of the species is restricted to an Island or a group of Islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Papp (1980) added *Tunisimyia excellens* from Tunisia. Two species of *Tunisimyia*, possibly including *T. excellens*, are found in Israel on the Coastal Plain and in the Dead Sea area.

53. *Milichiidae*

The local fauna is relatively rich, consisting of at least 25 species, some of which are restricted to desert habitats. A few species (*Leptometopa latipes*, *Desmometopa m-nigrum* and *Milichiella lacteipennis*), have become almost cosmopolitan, apparently through commerce. Other species may be Afrotropical or eremic elements. However, the relationships with the Afrotropical fauna need to be better studied.

54. *Carnidae*

This family was first recorded from Israel with the description of *Meoneura palaestinensis* and *M. perlamellata* (Hennig 1937). The local fauna is now known to include at least 13 species, eight of which belong to *Meoneura* and four to *Hemeromyia*. Most of these are found in the northern half of Israel. *Carnus hemapterus* Nitzsch, a blood-sucking parasite of birds, was recently discovered in central Israel. The affinities are typically Palaearctic, although the three genera are Holarctic.

55. *Braulidae*

The family consists of five species, including the almost cosmopolitan *Braula coeca*, which is the sole Israeli representative. It was hitherto found only in central Israel. Adults and larvae of this species are found exclusively in honey-bee hives.