

Special Issue

Systematics, Taxonomy and Biodiversity of Sciaridae (Diptera)

Message from the Guest Editors

The Lower dipteran family Sciaridae (Bibionomorpha, Sciaroidea) is a challenging insect group. The current knowledge lags far behind its importance in insect biodiversity. The known number of species is about 3000. The current knowledge indicates that at least ten times more species than this exist in the fauna worldwide. In its mere magnitude, this tremendous species diversity is a challenge for taxonomists but also offers an intriguing possibility to discover and document undescribed morphological forms representing new genera. For large areas of the Earth, we lack knowledge of their sciarid fauna, and it is necessary to intensify biosystematic research in all regions. Moreover, if we have a better understanding of the morphology and if we use rapidly developing molecular techniques, it is possible to assess the phylogenetic relationships between taxa ever more reliably. This Special Issue aims to encourage original research on systematics of Sciaridae: morphology, descriptive taxonomy, DNA barcoding, revisions, phylogenetics and various aspects of biodiversity.

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