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# Photographing European hoverflies (Diptera, Syrphidae) as part of the Taxo-Fly project

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## Abstract

Taxo-Fly is a three-year project commissioned by the European Commission (EC) to develop resources for European hoverfly inventory and taxonomy. The overall objective of Taxo-Fly is to create a new taxonomic knowledge base, which lays the ground for the identification of the hoverflies of Europe. This taxonomic information will be easily available and accessible, usable by researchers as well as citizen scientists. For this purpose, a web platform will be built. High-quality images of all European hover fly species are an important part of this platform. Within the core team of Taxo-Fly, the photography team has the task to produce these images. As a base, the photographs of the Dutch field guide (Bot & Van de Meutter 2019) will be used. The remaining images will be produced during the project using two photography setups, one in the Netherlands and one at the University of Novi Sad. The setup consists of a Canon EOS 6D body and a set of lenses and flashes. With help of the photo editing software programs standardized high-quality photographs will be created. For every species the male imago will be photographed dorsally and several additional detailed images will be produced to highlight important identification features. This will lead to three to up to ca. eight images per species, depending on the difficulty of identification of the species. For male genitalia photographs are less suitable and line drawings will be used instead. To create high-quality images fresh and correctly pinned material is necessary. There will be extensive Europe-wide collecting in 2022 and 2023 to get as many fresh and correctly pinned species as possible. Your help will be appreciated in the 2023 collecting season to obtain fresh material of the missing species. If for species no fresh material can be collected, collection material will be used instead.

**Keywords:** Taxo, Fly, photography, taxonomy

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