
The Diversity of Pollinating Diptera in South African biodiversity hotspots (DIPoDIP) project

Kurt Jordaens^{*†1}, Terence Bellingan^{2,3}, John Midgley^{4,5}, and Marc De Meyer¹

¹Royal Museum for Central Africa, Invertebrates Section, Leuvensesteenweg 13, 3080 Tervuren – Belgium

²Department of Zoology Entomology, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 6139 – South Africa

³Department of Entomology Arachnology, Albany Museum, Makhanda, 6139 – South Africa

⁴Department of Zoology Entomology, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 6139 – South Africa

⁵KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, 3021 – South Africa

Abstract

The Diversity of Pollinating Diptera in South African biodiversity hotspots (DIPoDIP) project studies the biodiversity of selected true fly families, including hoverflies or Syrphidae, in South African Biodiversity Hotspots. The project improves the taxonomy and identification of the South African hoverfly species and provides basic data on their distribution and pollination ecology in order to study plant-pollinator co-evolution. Amongst other things, this is achieved through training of PhD, MSc and BSc students and joint fieldwork and research. The research delivers data for Red List assessments and improved conservation strategies for these Biodiversity Hotspots. A work-shop with local partners, conservationists, Red List assessors and stakeholders will be organized in 2023 to translate the results for policy making. Results will be presented to the larger public to raise awareness of the importance of hoverflies in pollination, food security and nature conservation. The DIPoDIP project is financed through the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD).

Keywords: South Africa, Biodiversity hotspots, education, public awareness

^{*}Speaker

[†]Corresponding author: kurt.jordaens@africamuseum.be