

# ABSTRACTS CD

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"Celebrating Entomology: Contributions to Modern Science"

## MENU

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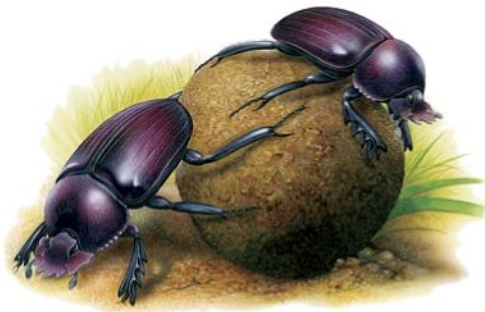
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# ICE 2008

XXIII International Congress of Entomology  
6 - 12 July, 2008: International Convention Centre, Durban

## **Flying after Linnaeus: Dipteran names since *Systema Naturae* (1758)**

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Since the start of zoological nomenclature, new names for flies (Diptera) have been proposed at an average of more than eight hundred names per year.

Linnaeus (1758: *Systema Naturae*) and Fabricius (1805: *Systema Antliatorum*) provided the first and the last comprehensive summaries of contemporary knowledge of extant flies respectively. Today, version 10 of the *BioSystematic Database of World Diptera* (BDWD) contains nomenclatural data for 156,599 extant and extinct species in 154 families and 11,671 genera, which is about 10% of the described diversity of the world biota. The BDWD is a nomenclator, which allows for the retrieval of the single correct name for each dipteran, and by providing a framework for organizing and integrating current and future knowledge it is a comprehensive portal to knowledge about all flies.

Various statistics are presented to assess the growth in knowledge, from species accumulation curves and regional patterns of taxonomic output, to the number of workers, their productivity and error rates. With an estimated 98% of all Diptera names entered in the BDWD, the challenge now is to assure the highest quality through appropriate community participation, particularly by specialists and peers. At present, 15% of the entries have been verified and peer-reviewed.

We also present our visions for how to build and maintain large nomenclators, and how these can be used to alleviate the critical need to summarize and make available existing knowledge about our biota.