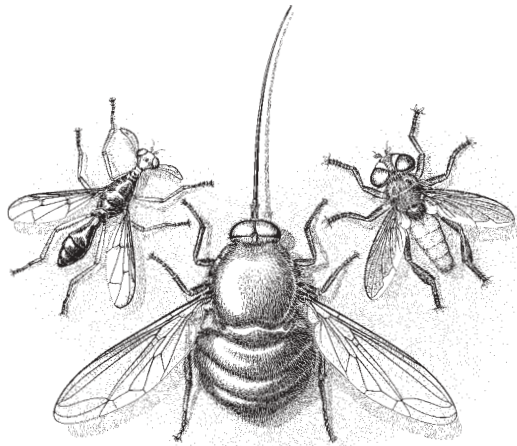


Biodiversity

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The images of flies on the front cover illustrate some of the remarkable variation among the 125,000 described species belonging to the order Diptera in the class Insecta. Flies show countless differences not only in appearance but also in genetics, physiology, behaviour, habits, ecological function, and distribution. The three illustrated species include: 1. [center] *Lasia* sp. (Acroceridae – small-headed flies) – Species of *Lasia* occur only in the New World. As with all small-headed flies, their larvae are parasitoids of spiders; 2. [left] *Giraffomyia willeyi* (Platystomatidae – signal flies) – The genus, with five species, occurs only in New Britain and the Solomon Islands. The outgrowths from the head occur only in the males and are presumably used in mating rituals. Unlike eyestalks, found in eight families of flies (see back cover), they are not rigid processes but have a weak flexible base. Larvae are unknown; and 3. [right] *Trichopoda pennipes* (Tachinidae – tachinid flies). – A native of temperate North America, this species has been introduced into many parts of the world as a biocontrol agent against pest species of stink bugs. The family Tachinidae has 9,200 species worldwide. All are parasitoids of arthropods. – Illustrated by Roelof Idema. More fly photos on page 44 & back cover.

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Policy of Respect

To engender and foster respect for all living species, this journal capitalizes the common names of all formally named species.