



## Editorial

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### Describing undiscovered insect diversity: an introduction to collected papers describing 150 new taxa

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The number of species on earth is estimated to be 8.7 million, with 87% of them to be discovered and described (Mora *et al.* 2011). The total of 8.7 million seems to be an underestimate, because for Animalia alone, over 1.5 million species have been described (Zhang 2011b). The most successful group, the Insecta, accounts for almost two-thirds of all animals.

*Zootaxa* has been a major force in facilitating the descriptions of undiscovered animal species in the world—publishing about 20% of all new species indexed in *Zoological Record* each year (Zhang 2011a). In the first week since the publication of the ICZN amendment allowing e-only publication (ICZN 2012), *Zootaxa* has published 484 new taxa. In this special volume highlighting undiscovered global diversity of insects, *Zootaxa* publishes 150 new taxa (143 species + 7 genera) of 12 insect orders in 44 papers by authors from different parts of the world (Table 1).

**TABLE 1.** Numbers of new taxa (species-group and genus-group) by insect order (listed following sequence in Zhang 2011c) with references.

Insect order	Number of new taxa		References
	Species-group	Genus-group	
<b>Ephemeroptera</b>	1	0	Flowers (2012)
<b>Orthoptera</b>	2	2	Bolfarini <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<b>Plecoptera</b>	1	0	Li <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<b>Phthiraptera</b>	3	0	Ricardo (2012)
<b>Thysanoptera</b>	4	0	Mound <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<b>Hemiptera</b>	1	0	Rosa <i>et al.</i> (2012)
	1	0	Coelho & Da-Silva (2012)
	1	0	Lagos <i>et al.</i> (2012)
	1	0	Gil-Santana (2012)
	1	1	Blinn (2012)
	12	0	Yasunaga <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<b>Hymenoptera</b>	1	0	Packer & Dumesht (2012)
	1	0	Nemésio & Ferrari (2012)
	4	0	Reshchikov (2012)
<b>Coleoptera</b>	2	0	Melika <i>et al.</i> (2012)
	2	0	Sampaio <i>et al.</i> (2012)
	3	0	Zhou & Zhou (2012)

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