



This special issue of ZooKeys forms a checklist of all true flies (Insecta: Diptera) found in Finland. Twenty-four authors contributed 31 manuscripts covering the whole order. Each paper treats one or more Diptera families and includes a brief introduction, a systematic checklist, a list of excluded species (if any), and explanatory notes.

Diptera is a large order of insects commonly known as the true flies. With some 150,000 described extant species and many more still undescribed, Diptera is one of the most successful groups of animals. Flies, midges and their relatives are important actors in most land and freshwater ecosystems, particularly so in the arctic and alpine zones. The economic relevance of true flies is also considerable: they are key pollinators and biological control agents, but also – less beneficially – pests and important vectors of human and domestic animal diseases.

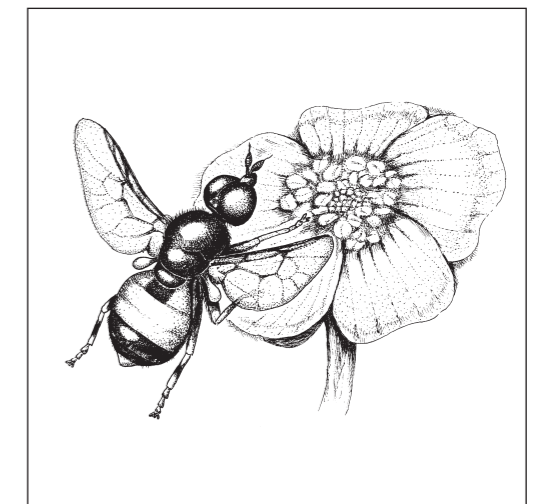
The new checklist records 6920 Diptera species from Finland. 2932 species belong to Nematocera or lower flies and 3989 to suborder Brachycera. In comparison, the previous Finnish checklist – published in 1980 – involved just 4852 species. Our understanding of the Finnish fauna has grown across the whole order, but especially among Nematocera: for example, more than 400 non-biting midges (Chironomidae) and 219 gall midges (Cecidomyiidae) have been added since 1980 and the number of moth flies (Psychodidae) known from the country has more than tripled. Among Brachycera, the big-headed flies (Pipunculidae, with a 98 % increase) and the parasitic family Tachinidae with 118 newly recorded species stand out.



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## CHECKLIST OF THE DIPTERA OF FINLAND

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For those who want their work rapidly known to the World !

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