Book announcement

by Joachim Ziegler

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MESSAGE FROM JOACHIM ZIEGLER

Figure 1. Joachim Ziegler investigates a *Dracunculus* plant while collecting on the Pelion Peninsula in Greece in June 2015. (Photo by wife Christiane Lange)

I came to the end of my employment as curator of Diptera and Siphonaptera at the Natural History Museum in Berlin on 31 January 2017 (Fig. 1). As is the current practice in Germany, I retired upon reaching the age of 65.5 years and from that day gave up my official functions at the Museum. At the moment no decision has been taken about a possible successor. Loans from the collection will from now on be supervised by Jenny Pohl (jenny.pohl@mfn-berlin.de).

I am hoping that I shall still be able to complete several projects as an Honorary Associate of the Museum. As I live outside Berlin, I shall be working mainly at home. However, my official Museum email address should still function up to the end of 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT *DIPTERA STELVIANA*, VOLUME 2

Ziegler, J., editor (2016) Diptera Stelviana. A dipterological perspective on a changing alpine landscape. Results from a survey of the biodiversity of Diptera (Insecta) in the Stilfserjoch National Park (Italy). Volume 2. *Studia dipterologica*. Supplement 21. 448 pp. [To purchase a copy of this book, please contact Dr. Andreas Stark, Ampyx Verlag, at Stark@ampyx-verlag.de.]

After an unexpectedly long period of gestation, the second volume of *Diptera Stelviana* was published on 23 December 2016 (Fig. 2). It begins with a guest foreword by Professor Martens and a critical foreword by the editor on the consequences for biodiversity research of the "Nagoya Protocol". Also included is a comprehensive historical survey of dipterological research in South Tyrol since 1860. In the main part, further results are published from the survey of the Diptera in the South Tyrol part of the Stilfserjoch National Park (Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio), Italian Alps. Five Malaise traps were used, which were set up during the vegetative period of 2005 along a transect from the submontane to the alpine altitudinal zones (940 m to 2135 m).

In the first part of this series, published in 2008, a total of 25,280 specimens of Diptera were dealt with. In the current volume results on a further 25,687 specimens of Diptera are presented. The identified flies belong to 900 species and represent 27 Diptera families. The results are given in 29 individual reports in which 29 international specialists have collaborated. Although there have been dipterological investigations in the study area since 1860, an additional

476 species have been found among the identified Diptera that were not previously known from South Tyrol. Although the fauna of Italy is rich and relatively well known, the present investigations in the Stilfserjoch National Park have nevertheless added a further 109 species as new records for Italy. In both volumes of *Diptera Stelviana*, 1,248 species are recorded for the first time from South Tyrol and 357 species for the first time from Italy.

The family Tachinidae is dealt with in particular detail in the second volume. In addition to the results from the trap captures, extensive recent collections with a hand net have been analysed. Two special contributions deal with taxonomic problems and contain the descriptions of two species new for science in the genera *Chrysosomopsis* and *Dinera*. In addition a review is given of the Tachinidae that were collected between 1860 and 1960 in the region of the present day province of Bozen-South Tyrol and in the present Stilfserjoch National Park. For this the literature was evaluated and historic material was examined from collections that are still in existence. Based on the collections that could be revised, the published information has been critically checked and corrected where required. As a result, a comparison with recent collections has for the first time been possible. A total of 270 species of Tachinidae has been recorded in the Stilfserjoch National Park, 360 species in South Tyrol, and 370 species in the entire study area. Species of Tachinidae that are particularly characteristic are assigned to the typical environments in the study area, namely the alpine grasslands, the montane coniferous forest and the montane inner-alpine dry grasslands. Fifteen percent of the South Tyrol species are missing or have become extinct. Whereas all the species known historically from the alpine zone were found again during the present investigation and only a few species (3%) from the montane zone were missing, the proportion of missing species rises very sharply in the region of the planar to submontane zone: 79% of the Tachinidae that are known only from historical finds lived in the valleys. The causes of this drastic faunistic impoverishment in the South Tyrol valleys are considered to be intensive agriculture and habitat destruction.

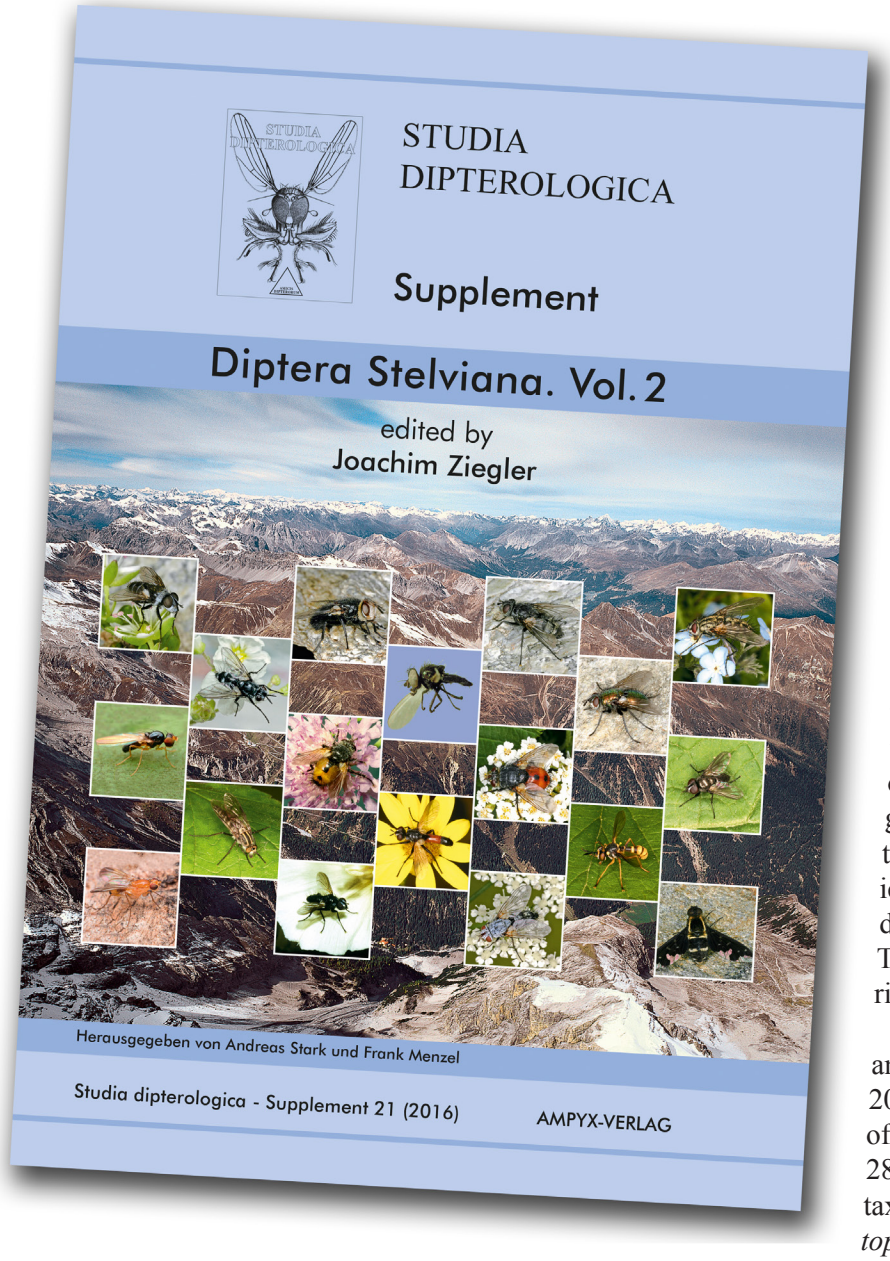

Figure 2. Cover of *Diptera Stelviana*, volume 2.

Eleven maps and 16 diagrams, 137 drawings and 45 photographs of morphological details, 20 other photographs as well as 52 photographs of living flies in their natural habitats (altogether 282 figures) illustrate the contributions. Seven taxa are described as new for science: *Apiloscatopse ziegleri* Heanni (Scatopsidae), *Chrysosomopsis macrocercus* Zeegers, Ziegler & Tschorsnig (Tachinidae), *Dinera fuscata occidentalis* Ziegler (Tachinidae), *Lonchaea stelviana* MacGowan (Lonchaeidae), *Megaselia ziegleri* Disney, Weber & Prescher (Phoridae), *Meoneura pohlae* Stuke (Carnidae), and *Pneumia glabella* Wagner (Psychodidae).

The second volume of *Diptera Stelviana* concludes with an overview of the results, a bibliography for the general part, summaries in Italian and German, a list of the collaborating authors, an index of the illustrations of Diptera species, and an index of the dipterological names.