

In Memoriam

James G. Lumbers (1986–2025)

The sad and unexpected passing of James Lumbers was communicated to dipterists last year in the following post on *dipterists.org* from Keith Bayless of the Australian National Insect Collection (CSIRO, Acton, ACT):

“It pains me to inform you that former Australian National Insect Collection student James G. Lumbers passed away unexpectedly and tragically 25 September 2025. Some of you might have known him as a burgeoning tachinid expert and a student in Fly School 2017 in Wrightwood, CA. He contributed a great deal to our field during his studies. He was a coauthor on five papers, spanning taxonomy, biological control, and alpine pollination ecology. James was an intrepid field biologist and collected flies throughout Australia, including critical post-bushfire malaise samples (see *Fly Times* 64, pl. 7). He collected specimens which have been designated as holotypes of at least six new species. His robust and thorough thesis research on Rutiliini will also be submitted for publication. Most of all, James was a careful and engaged scientist who was always up for a deep dive into theoretical minutiae or an impromptu adventure. He will be missed.”

— Keith Bayless, 7 October 2025

James completed and submitted his MPhil thesis on rutiliine tachinids to the ANU College of Science, Australian National University, in 2024. His MPhil degree was posthumously awarded in 2025, and his thesis is available at the link below in his list of tachinid publications.

Tachinid publications of James Lumbers:

- Lumbers, J. 2017. Student News. *The Tachinid Times* 30: 33–35.
- Lumbers, J., Lessard, B., Rowell, D. & Yeates, D.K. 2018. Insect death metal – taxonomy and phylogeny of the Australian bristle fly genus *Rutilia* Robineau-Desvoidy (Tachinidae). P. 164. *In*: Kirk-Spriggs, A.H. & Muller, B.S., eds. Abstract volume, 9th International Congress of Dipterology, Windhoek. xxii + 346 pp.
- Lumbers, J. 2024. Molecular phylogenomics of the bristle fly tribe Rutiliini (Diptera: Tachinidae). A thesis submitted for the degree of MPhil (Evo, Ecol and Gen, RSB), ANU College of Science, The Australian National University. ix + 73 pp. + Appendices 1, 2, 4–7. <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/items/8f2d6a3e-12a2-48ec-9d25-3d77b267866c>
- Martins, C., Afonso, C., Valente, C., Reis, A.R., O’Hara, J., Lumbers, J., Branco, M. & Gonçalves, C.I. 2023. *Anagonia lasiophthalma* (Diptera: Tachinidae): survey, identification, and biological traits of a new biological control agent of the *Eucalyptus* snout beetle, *Gonipterus platensis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). *Biological Control* 187 (Article 105136): 11 pp.



James at his poster on Australian *Rutilia* R.-D. (Tachinidae: Dexiinae: Rutiliini) during the 9th International Congress of Dipterology, Windhoek, Namibia, November 2018. Photo by J.E. O’Hara.