



Aquatic Insects: Diversity, Ecology and Evolution

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Message from the Guest Editor

Aquatic Insects are generally the most important component of freshwater ecosystems in terms of the number of species and their biomass. They do not form a distinct taxonomic group within the class of insects, but are linked by their ecology, as they spend all or part of their life cycle in different types of aquatic habitats. Most of them are merolimnic, i.e., their juvenile life stages are restricted to aquatic habitats, while the adults are terrestrial. There are numerous representatives of aquatic insects, starting with the Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera (known as EPT taxa), which are widely used in freshwater ecology, water quality assessment and ecosystem-type categorization. However, probably the most numerous aquatic insects, in terms of number of species and their occurrence, in virtually all aquatic habitats are invariably representatives of the order Diptera. Aquatic insects are extremely important for monitoring freshwater ecosystems and many of them serve as bioindicator species.

We invite biologists, taxonomists, ecologists, molecular biologists and other scientists to contribute to this Special Issue.

