

Diptera of Madagascar: Historical Biogeography and Biodiversity

Symposium organized by
Mike Irwin and Rasolondalao Harin'Hala Hasinjaka (aka Rin'ha)

Open invitation to submit papers for this symposium

Madagascar is a remarkable island, home to a plentiful yet isolated biota. It separated from mainland Africa some 90 million years ago, isolating what was there to further evolve via vicariance, or to have gotten there later via dispersal. In this symposium we delve into some of that diversity and explore endemism, evolutionary patterns, and environmental determinants.

Some 18 years ago, Evert Schlinger, now deceased, and Mike Irwin began a large-scale inventory of the flies of Madagascar. The project, sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences, funded by the Schlinger Foundation, and managed by Rin'ha through a collaborative effort with MICET, monitored the flies of nearly every habitat throughout the island using Malaise traps. The material, partially processed and sorted by a team in Madagascar and then sent to the CAS, has been dispersed widely to Dipterists around the world.

Please contact Mike Irwin <meirwin@illinois.edu> if you are interested in giving a talk. We solicit your contributions in the hopes of developing an expansive symposium that will cut across diverse taxa.

