

## PUBLIC LECTURES

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Dipterology, in collaboration with the Namibia Scientific Society, is pleased to announce two public lectures in November 2018. These lectures will take place at the Safari Conference Centre at the Corner of Auas and Aviation Roads, Windhoek and light refreshments shall be served after the talks.

**27 November 2018 (18h30):** Dr Mark Benecke will speak on:  
“How flies and other insects help us to understand and solve crimes”

*Some flies, maggots and beetles develop on human corpses. Their location on the body, their feeding patterns, development and even possible gut contents aid in criminal investigations. Actual crime and neglect cases, as well as remarks on the circle of life and the decline in insect populations will illustrate forensic applications of entomology beyond what is shown in movies dealing with the matter.*



**Biography:** Mark Benecke works internationally as a forensic biologist. He set up forensic DNA labs for universities in Vietnam and the Philippines and collaborates worldwide in forensic cases using insects from corpses. In Germany, he is a “Certified and Sworn in Expert for Detection, Recovery and Interpretation of Biological Stains in Crime Cases”. In the 1990s he was employed at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Manhattan. For over 25 years he has worked on special cases around the world, including the identification of Adolph Hitler's teeth and skull and his work on thousands of mummies in the Catacombs of Palermo. Some of his forensic cases have been covered by the National Geographic Channel and the History Channel. His books about forensic science and cases were published in numerous countries. He is a long-time Elected Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London, Honorary Member of the Peruvian Society for Biology and Honorary Member of German Police Organisations.



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**29 November 2018 (18h30):** Prof. Stephen A. Marshall will speak on:  
“Bye bye birdie – hello Year of the Fly!”

*The study of flies is a critical discipline because of the centrality of dipteran diversity to human and animal health, pollination, crop protection and ecological integrity. The study of flies is also an engaging hobby, now with all of the appeal of bird watching, but offering orders of magnitude more diversity. This lecture will delve into the diversity of dipterological delights and discoveries accessible to naturalists with digital cameras.*



**Biography:** Steve Marshall developed a keen interest in insects in early life, while growing up in Canada and has been collecting insects since the age of five! He undertook his undergraduate years at the University of Guelph and by the time he entered graduate school at Carleton University in the late 1970s, Steve had already developed a special fondness for flies and especially the lesser dung flies. A Master degree at Carleton was followed by his return to Guelph for a PhD. Over the past 35 years he has taught entomology to hundreds of undergraduate students and supervised dozens of graduate students. The position Steve accepted in 1982 also encompassed the directorship of the University of Guelph Insect Collection.

Steve has published half a dozen popular books on entomology, including his 2006 *Insects: their Natural History and Diversity* and in 2018, *Beetles: the Natural History and Diversity of Coleoptera*. His 2012 book, *The Natural History and Diversity of Diptera*, is richly illustrated with his own photographs and is a must-have book for anyone with even a passing interest in the world of flies. Steve was recently awarded the C.P. Alexander Award as one of North America's leading dipterists.

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