

SURICATA 5



Manual of  
**Afrotropical Diptera**

Volume 2

Nematocerous Diptera and lower Brachycera

Edited by  
Ashley H. Kirk-Spriggs & Bradley J. Sinclair

Editorial Assistance  
Burgert S. Muller

**SANBI**   
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# SURICATA

*Suricata* is the generic name of the suricate (*meerkat*), which is near-endemic to the arid western parts of southern Africa (occurring in Namibia, South Africa and Botswana; and just entering into a very small area in the extreme south of Angola). Behaviourally, suricates are socially inclusive and innately inquisitive, symbolising the commitment of South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to include all biodiversity and serve all of Africa and the scientific curiosity that precedes and drives research and publication of research results. Sister journal to SANBI's *Strelitzia*, *Suricata* is a peer-reviewed journal and publishes original and applied research, such as monographs, revisions, checklists, red lists, atlases and faunas of any taxa belonging to Regnum Animalia (the Animal Kingdom).

Edited by  
Ashley H. Kirk-Spriggs (Coordinator & Editor-in-Chief) & Bradley J. Sinclair (Assistant Editor)

Editorial Assistance  
Burgert S. Muller (Graphics Editor)

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Elizma Fouché.

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## AUTHORS OF VOLUME 2

The following list is arranged alphabetically by surname.

Dalton de Souza Amorim

Departamento de Biologia, FFCLRP, Universidade de São Paulo, Av. Bandeirantes 3900, 14.040-901 Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil.  
E-mail: dsamorim@usp.br

Trond Andersen

Department of Natural History, University Museum of Bergen, P.O. Box 7800, NO-5020 Bergen, Norway.  
E-mail: trond.andersen@uib.no

Patrick Ashe

33 Shelton Drive, Terenure, Dublin 12, Ireland.  
E-mail: patrick.ashe@upcmail.ie

David A. Barraclough

School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X5400, Durban 4000 and KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Private Bag 9070, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa.  
E-mail: barracloughd@ukzn.ac.za

Vladimir Blagoderov

Department of Natural Sciences, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, Scotland, United Kingdom.  
E-mail: vblago@gmail.com

Art Borkent

Research Associate, Royal British Columbia Museum and American Museum of Natural History, 691-8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 2C2, Canada.  
E-mail: artborkent@telus.net

Scott E. Brooks

Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 960 Carling Avenue, K.W. Neatby Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada.  
E-mail: scott.brooks@agr.gc.ca

John E. Chainey

Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK.  
E-mail: jjbrindle70@btinternet.com

Maureen Coetzee

Wits Research Institute for Malaria, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, 7 York Avenue, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
E-mail: maureen.coetzee@wits.ac.za

Gregory W. Courtney

Department of Entomology, Iowa State University, 3222 Science II, Ames, Iowa 50011-3222, USA.  
E-mail: gwcourt@iastate.edu

Jeffrey M. Cumming

Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 960 Carling Avenue, K.W. Neatby Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada.  
E-mail: jeff.cumming@agr.gc.ca

Christophe Daugeron

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Institut Systématique, Evolution, Biodiversité, UMR 7205 MNHN, CNRS, UPMC, EPHE, 45 rue Buffon – CP 50, 75005 Paris, France.  
E-mail: daugeron@mnhn.fr

Herman de Jong

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands.  
E-mail: herman.dejong@naturalis.nl

Ferdinand C. de Moor

Department of Freshwater Invertebrates, Albany Museum, Somerset Street, Grahamstown 6139 and Research Associate, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6139, South Africa.  
E-mail: F.deMoor@ru.ac.za

Torsten Dikow

Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, MRC-169, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, USA.  
E-mail: DikowT@si.edu

Netta Dorchin

Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel.  
E-mail: ndorchin@tauex.tau.ac.il

Torbjørn Ekrem

Department of Natural History, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU University Museum, NO-7491 Trondheim, Norway.  
E-mail: torbjorn.ekrem@ntnu.no

Neal L. Evenhuis

J. Linsley Gressitt Center for Research in Entomology, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Kaiwi'ula Research Complex, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2704, USA.  
E-mail: NealE@bishopmuseum.org

Diego Aguilar Fachin

Departamento de Biologia, FFCLRP, Universidade de São Paulo, Avenue Bandeirantes 3900, 14.040-901 Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil.  
E-mail: diegoafachin@gmail.com

- Andrew Fasbender  
Rhithron Associates, Inc., 33 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula,  
MT 59804, USA.  
E-mail: [afasbender@rhithron.com](mailto:afasbender@rhithron.com)
- Stephen D. Gaimari  
California State Collection of Arthropods, California Department of Food and Agriculture/Plant Pest Diagnostics, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA, 95832-1448, USA.  
E-mail: [sgaimari@gmail.com](mailto:sgaimari@gmail.com)
- Igor Ya. Grichanov  
Institute of Plant Protection, Shosse Podhelskogo 3, VIZR, St. Petersburg-Pushkin, Russia.  
E-mail: [grichanov@mail.ru](mailto:grichanov@mail.ru)
- Jean-Paul Haenni  
Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Rue des Terreaux 14, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.  
E-mail: [jean-paul.haenni@unine.ch](mailto:jean-paul.haenni@unine.ch)
- E. Geoffrey Hancock  
Hunterian Zoology Museum, Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland, UK.  
E-mail: [geoff.hancock@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:geoff.hancock@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Keith M. Harris  
81 Linden Way, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6LP, UK.  
E-mail: [keithmurrayharris@gmail.com](mailto:keithmurrayharris@gmail.com)
- Martin Hauser  
California State Collection of Arthropods, California Department of Food and Agriculture/Plant Pest Diagnostics, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA, 95832-1448, USA.  
E-mail: [phycus@gmail.com](mailto:phycus@gmail.com)
- Kevin C. Holston  
Department of Entomology, Swedish Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 50007, S-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.  
E-mail: [kevin.holston@nrm.se](mailto:kevin.holston@nrm.se)
- Mathias Jaschhof  
Station Linné, Ölands Skogsby 161, SE-38693 Färjestaden, Sweden.  
E-mail: [mjaschhof@yahoo.de](mailto:mjaschhof@yahoo.de)
- Peter H. Kerr  
California State Collection of Arthropods, California Department of Food and Agriculture/Plant Pest Diagnostics, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA, 95832-1448, USA.  
E-mail: [mycomya@gmail.com](mailto:mycomya@gmail.com)
- Ashley H. Kirk-Spriggs  
Entomology Department, National Museum, P.O. Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300 and Department of Zoology & Entomology, University of Fort Hare, Ring Road, Alice, 5700, South Africa.  
E-mail: [ashley.kirk-spriggs@nasmus.co.za](mailto:ashley.kirk-spriggs@nasmus.co.za)
- Gunnar M. Kvifte  
Department of Natural History, University Museum of Bergen, P.O. Box 7800, NO-5020 Bergen, Norway.  
E-mail: [gunnar.kvifte@um.uib.no](mailto:gunnar.kvifte@um.uib.no)
- Carlos J.E. Lamas  
Serviço de Entomologia, Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP), Av. Nazaré 481, Ipiranga, São Paulo, SP 04263-000, Brazil.  
E-mail: [einicker@usp.br](mailto:einicker@usp.br)
- Jason G.H. Londt  
KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Private Bag 9070, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 and Research Fellow, School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa.  
E-mail: [robber4afr@telkomsa.net](mailto:robber4afr@telkomsa.net)
- R. Isaí Madriz  
1591 Dana Avenue, Palo Alto, California, 94303-2814, USA.  
E-mail: [rimadriz1@gmail.com](mailto:rimadriz1@gmail.com)
- Frank Menzel  
Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Eberswalder Straße 90, 15374 Müncheberg, Germany.  
E-mail: [frank.menzel@senckenberg.de](mailto:frank.menzel@senckenberg.de)
- Burgert S. Muller  
Entomology Department, National Museum, P.O. Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa.  
E-mail: [burgert.muller@nasmus.co.za](mailto:burgert.muller@nasmus.co.za)
- Jan Ševčík  
Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Science, University of Ostrava, Chittussiho 10, CZ-71000 Ostrava, Czech Republic.  
E-mail: [sevcikjan@hotmail.com](mailto:sevcikjan@hotmail.com)
- Bradley J. Sinclair  
Canadian National Collection of Insects and Canadian Food Inspection Agency, OPL-Entomology, K.W. Neatby Building, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada.  
E-mail: [bradley.sinclair@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:bradley.sinclair@inspection.gc.ca)
- John Skartveit  
NLA Høgskolen, Postboks 74 Sandviken, N-5812 Bergen, Norway.  
E-mail: [john.skartveit@nla.no](mailto:john.skartveit@nla.no)
- Jane E. Smith  
6 Beech Road, Oxhill, Warwks, CV35 0QS, United Kingdom.  
E-mail: [smithje@btinternet.com](mailto:smithje@btinternet.com)
- Geir Søli  
Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 1172 Blindern, NO-0318 Oslo, Norway.  
E-mail: [geir.solli@nhm.uio.no](mailto:geir.solli@nhm.uio.no)
- Elisabeth Stur  
Department of Natural History, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU University Museum, NO-7491 Trondheim, Norway.  
E-mail: [elisabeth.stur@ntnu.no](mailto:elisabeth.stur@ntnu.no)

Vaughn R. Swart

Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State, 205 Nelson Mandela Drive, Park West, Bloemfontein 9301, South Africa.  
E-mail: swartvr@ufs.ac.za

Rüdiger Wagner

University of Kassel, FB 10 Natural Sciences, Institute of Biology, Heinrich-Plett-Straße 40, D-34132, Kassel, Germany.  
E-mail: ruediger.wagner@uni-kassel.de

Shaun L. Winterton

California State Collection of Arthropods, California Department of Food and Agriculture/Plant Pest Diagnostics, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA, 95832-1448, USA.  
E-mail: wintertonshaun@gmail.com

Norman E. Woodley

Research Associate, Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution, 8920 S Bryerly Ct., Hereford, AZ 85615, USA.  
E-mail: normwoodley@gmail.com

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The **National Museum, Bloemfontein** (South Africa) now has the largest collection of Diptera on the African continent, with over 209,374 accessioned specimens. The collection is a unique research tool, as it comprises recent, high quality material from numerous poorly-sampled Afrotropical countries, including Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Réunion Is., Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa (Eastern and Western Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal Provinces), Togo and Zambia. The collection is widely used by local and international researchers, with over 25,000 dry-pinned specimens currently on loan to specialists. The National Museum is, therefore, a centre of excellence for the study of dipterology on the continent and the collection represents an extremely important national asset and research tool. Two full-time dipterists are employed by the Museum, which actively encourages the study of the Diptera collection by specialist researchers and offers collection access and bench space at no cost to *bona fide* researchers. R. Nuttall (Director) and the Council of the National Museum is thanked for supporting the project.



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