World Dipteran Day, 15 November

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ABSTRACT. Following the idea proclaimed among Polish entomologists grouped at the Dipterological Section of the Polish Entomological Society, World Dipteran Day is proposed to be celebrated annually on 15 November.

KEY WORDS: Insecta, Diptera, World Dipteran Day, 15 November.

Dipterans or flies (Diptera) are common and well known insects in all regions of the world. Most people recognize them as nuisance blood sucking mosquitoes, vectors of malaria, intrusive house flies or the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* used for genetic studies.

The purpose of the annual celebration on 15 November is to draw attention to the importance of dipteran insects in human life. World Dipteran Day turns attention to the necessity of funding further studies on these insects and to popularize knowledge on their rich diversity and diversiform biology.

The idea of proclaiming the World Dipteran Day arouse among Polish entomologists grouped at the Dipterological Section of the Polish Entomological Society. The proclamation of the Day took place during the XXXII Dipterological Conference held in Zatwarnica (SE Poland, Bieszczady Mts) on 25 May 2013.

Polish dipterologists appeal to their colleagues from other countries to celebrate World Dipteran Day on 15 November by organizing seminars and lectures on dipterans at universities, schools, museums, etc. On 15 November, 2013 at the University of Gdańsk in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, a seminar on forensic Diptera was organized, and a poster in the main hall of the Faculty of Biology was presented (see Fig.).

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