

Letter to the Editor

## **Neglected factor in the challenges of insect taxonomists: Is human attribute a barrier faced by entomologists?**

Factores desatendidos en los desafíos de los taxónomos de insectos: ¿Es el atributo humano una barrera que enfrentan los entomólogos?

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Dear Editor:

In this study, some human-oriented problems and solution proposals that insect taxonomists encounter in field studies are explained.

The problems today's modern entomologists encounter in the collection, classification, and all other field studies of insects are human-based. Moreover, these human-induced problems fall into two groups: physical and behavioral. In other words, it is necessary not to see the human footprint only as a biological and ecological diversity. In addition, the human factor also complicates the work of entomologists in terms of sensory, perceptual, and behavioral aspects.

On the other hand, entomologists are exposed to non-scientific questions of the local people as follows: 'What will you do with these insects', 'For what purpose do you collect them', 'If you want, we can also collect crabs and spiders for you?'. Putting aside the confusion of insects with other arthropods such as scorpions, worms, and ticks, the identification of insects with reptiles, amphibians and other vertebrates reinforces the opinion that the world community is far from entomology. The fact that insects carry six legs and reproduce by laying eggs, and the misconception that all insects are poisonous also strengthen this claim. Entomologists rarely have time to do their own work than explaining to people. Misperceptions and misconceptions are not limited to these since you may also encounter suggestions from the local people such as 'Why are you killing these insects, isn't it a pity for them?' and 'Is there any other way to do this?'. In fact, there is a considerable mass of people in the world who think that insects will become extinct by collecting them.

In particular, the tools and equipment (alcohol, cyanide, ethyl acetate), sweep-net, and some trap devices used by entomologists who work with systematic intensity can be misunderstood and found strange by people.

Increasing forest fires due to the increasing summer temperatures in the last few years have cause a considerable trouble to researchers who study in classical insect taxonomy in forest ecosystems seriously Because security officers do not allow research to prevent possible fires in forest areas.

Especially entomologists have difficulties in finding students for data collection. Because students mostly do their master's or doctorate education in laboratory-based areas because of reasons such as physical conditions (hot weather, hiking in mountainous or rocky areas, insect bites) in field studies. The perception that almost all insects on earth are poisonous is another problem faced by entomologists today. However, unfortunately, it does not seem easy for now to destroy this erroneous perception.

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## Conclusion

In all this context, ways to remove the human footprint from the world of insects should be sought and put into practice. It should be noted that there will be no life in our old world without insects. It is an upsetting reality that entomologists face more human-based problems in their field studies than researchers of any other living group. This situation, from time to time, causes such a big waste of time in survey studies that the study gets disrupted. Public awareness should be raised by providing the society with basic ecological, morphological, and physiological public service announcements and any kind of enlightening contents about insects. The work of entomologists, who work devotedly to illuminate the mysterious world of insects in all these hard conditions, should be respected and assisted when necessary.

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