



FOREWORD: EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

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Since its establishment *ZOOTAXA* has become not only a rapid journal for zoological systematics but also a respected forum for discussions of all taxonomic matters, and it has gradually attained a distinguished position among other zoological journals by its special issues. These collections of papers treat varied themes such as the Carl Linnaeus legacy (Zhang & Shear 2007, Minelli et al. 2008), cataloguing metazoan life (Zhang 2011, 2013), and promoting and discussing the future of taxonomic sciences, for example modification of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 2008). For these reasons we offer this special issue to celebrate the fruitful career of the eminent Brazilian researcher Dr. Angelo Barbosa Monteiro Machado (“Professor Angelo” to his friends and colleagues).

Overviews on Dr. Angelo’s career have been published elsewhere, including the bio-bibliographic sketch presented here (Pinto 2016), and it is apparent that his influence on Neotropical odonatology, conservation, neuroanatomical research, literature, and other cultural and academic areas is unmatched. Although in *ZOOTAXA* he has published only three papers on Odonata to this date, two new genera and 21 new species were described in these papers, a large number from the standpoint of this relatively well-known order of insects. In comparison, the late Dr. Newton Dias dos Santos, his mentor on dragonflies and largely considered the “Father of Brazilian Odonatology” (Machado & Costa 1990), described fewer than 50 species in his half-century career. On 20 June 2014 we proposed the idea of a Special Festschrift honoring this Brazilian researcher and entomologist colleague on the occasion of his 80th birthday in that same year. The first suggestion to present a tribute to Dr. Angelo was well received by colleagues around the world, and it proved to be feasible. Now we are glad to present this special issue as result of the diligent editorial work of the invited editors.

The present issue, entirely dedicated to entomology, is the outcome of the prestige of both Dr. Angelo and the invited editors, resulting in a high-quality collection of papers. It contains short descriptions of new species as well as comprehensive taxonomic papers such as revisions, reviews, synopses, and taxonomic keys, and in addition an odonatological bio-bibliography of Dr. Angelo. Here we present 28 papers from 74 authors from six countries. As would be expected, Brazil furnished the highest number of authors with 55, New Zealand with 11, United States of America with four, Italy with two, and one each from the United Kingdom and The Netherlands. Additionally, the paper by Theischinger & Richards (2014) describing the Papuan damselfly *Drepanosticta machadoi*, published in the number 3866 (1) of the *ZOOTAXA*, should be considered as part of this special issue, since it was originally planned to appear together with the remaining contributions. We arranged the papers largely based on a phylogenetic sequence, except for the Odonata section that exceptionally also includes taxonomic papers in which no new names are erected, hence a

different arrangement was more appropriate. The great number of contributions on Coleoptera was not surprising, considering the diversity of this order, and it took first place both in number of contributions (with nine papers) and the number of new taxa (with 24 newly introduced names, including two new genera). During the publication process one of the authors, the eminent coleopterologist Ubirajara Ribeiro Martins de Souza (“Bira” to his friends and colleagues), unfortunately died on 26 May 2015. It was a great loss to Brazilian entomology and to our knowledge of Neotropical cerambycid beetles, and we dedicate it also to his memory. The remainder of the papers covers six other insect orders (with numbers of new species): Odonata (2), Ephemeroptera (3), Hemiptera (8), Diptera (2), Trichoptera (7), and Lepidoptera (7).

We thank all the authors for contributing to this special issue as a tribute to Dr. Angelo B. M. Machado’s birthday, recognizing his relevance to Brazilian entomology and conservation, and publishing their high-level research results here. An impressive number of 51 new species are described, all from the Americas, with type localities ranging from the Caribbean in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic through Costa Rica in Central America, Amazonian regions of Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana and Peru, Chaco in Bolivia, and Atlantic Forest in Paraguay south to Brazil, with the majority from different regions of that country. Half of the proposed names directly honor Dr. Angelo, including variations on his given name or surname; *machadoi* was the most adopted specific name. Two caddisfly names are creative references to his several children’s books, which are based mostly on folklore entities and animals of the Brazilian fauna.

This remarkable volume represents a small homage to Dr. Angelo’s studies on the marvelous dragonflies, general entomology, environmental education and conservation. Last and honestly, the editors, also on behalf of all authors of this special issue, wish to our colleague and friend “Professor Angelo” that he hang on his odonatological studies for a long time, in good health and with his incomparable enthusiasm and energy. We feel strongly honored to collaborate with this tribute. We hope as well to inspire the readers of this Festschrift to keep their contributions to entomology coming.

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