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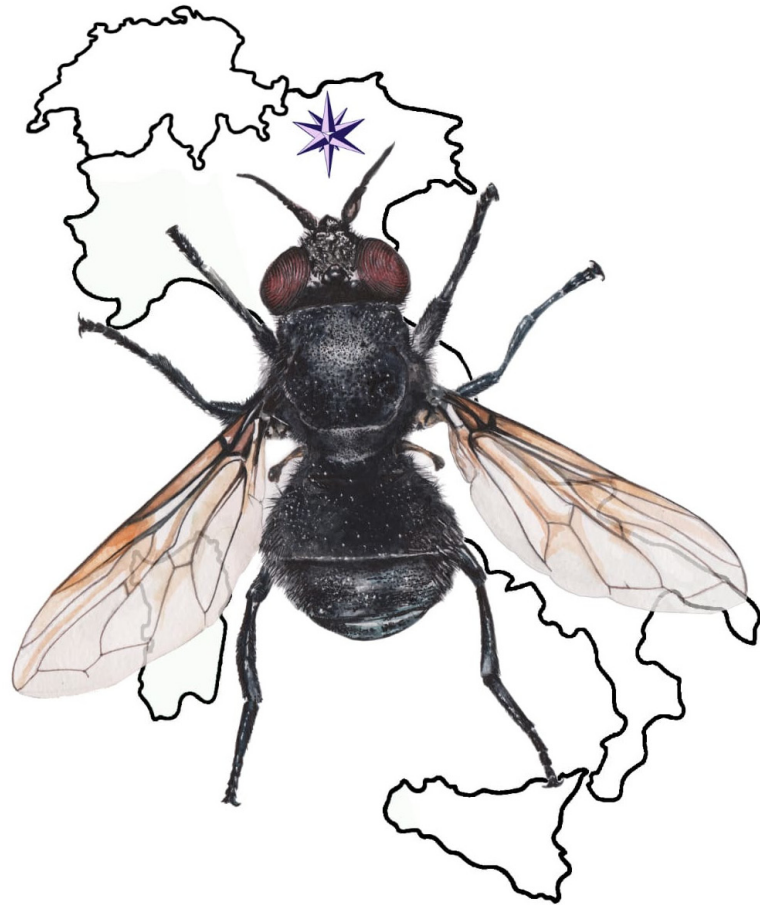
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PANEVEGGIO
PALE DI SAN MARTINO
Parco Naturale



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Species delimitation in *Eumerus etnensis* and *E. purpurariae* (Diptera: Syrphidae): An integrative approach

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The genus *Eumerus* (Diptera, Syrphidae, Eristalinae: Merodontini) is a widely distributed group of hoverflies with numerous unresolved taxonomic issues. One of these concerns the distinction between *Eumerus etnensis* van der Goot, 1964 and *E. purpurariae* Báez, 1982. Both species are reported from the European fauna, although their status as separate species has been questioned; for example, larval morphology attributed to the former was originally described under the name of the latter. *E. etnensis* occurs in the south-west Mediterranean region, while *E. purpurariae* is endemic to the Canary Islands. Adult morphology is highly similar in both taxa, with only subtle differences noted by Smit *et al.* [1], who reinstated *E. purpurariae* as a valid species. However, a detailed examination of multiple specimens of both taxa revealed variability in the diagnostic characters. To better understand the relationship between Mediterranean and Canarian populations, we applied an integrative approach combining morphological, molecular, and wing morphometric data. The results support the recognition of two distinct, closely related species. Additionally, the status of *E. lunatus* (Fabricius, 1794) is addressed, and its potential synonymy is discussed.

References

- [1] J.T. Smit, A.M. Franquinho Aguiar & A. Wakeham-Dawson (2004) The hoverflies (Diptera, Syrphidae) of the Madeiran Archipelago, Portugal. *Dipterists Digest*, 11: 47–82.