

Diptera of Guatemala

As part of an on-going survey of Diptera of Guatemala in cooperation with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG), Gary Steck and Bruce Sutton visited Guatemala from May 28 to June 11, 2009. Jack Schuster and José Monzón of UVG are our primary collaborators. Partial funding for this trip was provided by CSE.

Major areas of interest are mid- to high-elevation sites where insect faunas are particularly poorly known. We relied extensively on 6-meter Malaise traps and also ran lights at night and hand-collected. The photos shown here document some of the places we visited and our collections.

We spent the first week in the Sierra de las Minas. A base camp from which we worked is in cloud forest near Cerro de Mono, located at approximately N15.1156/W89.6837, elevation 2200 m. The road to Cerro de Mono passes through drier pine-oak forests where we camped and collected at sites that we call "El Naranjo" (approximately N15.076/W89.675, 1640-1700 m) and the "marble dump" which is slightly higher at approximately 1800 m.

Our second major target site was a forest of similar appearance to that at El Naranjo but located in western Guatemala in the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, north of Aguacatan, near Chex (approximately N15.368/ W 91.289, 2200 m).

Other places we visited only briefly included Finca El Pilar, just southeast of Antigua near N14.54, W90.70; Corazon Bosque, an ecotourist lodge along the Pan-American Hwy, km 145 near Los Encuentros (north of Lake Atitlan) in pine/oak/alder forest; and a peculiar, sharply demarcated and treeless grassland near N14.98/W91.44 ("Momostenango Bald"). Hotel San Francisco is in Huehuetenango; more than once we mistook its resident fowl for a Persian cat!

The image names should be self-explanatory based on the details presented above. Taxonomic names followed by the letter "Q" or "cf" indicate an uncertain identification.