



Photo courtesy of Caroline Chaboo

Diptera in Phytotelmata

The Diptera in Phytotelmata project (PHYTODIPS) focuses on documenting and analyzing biodiversity of aquatic flies in plant held waters.

Overview. Diptera are one of the most diverse groups of aquatic insects in phytotelmata. Most research centers on phytotelmata as habitat for mosquito larvae, but a rich community of other aquatic Diptera inhabit these insular habitats.

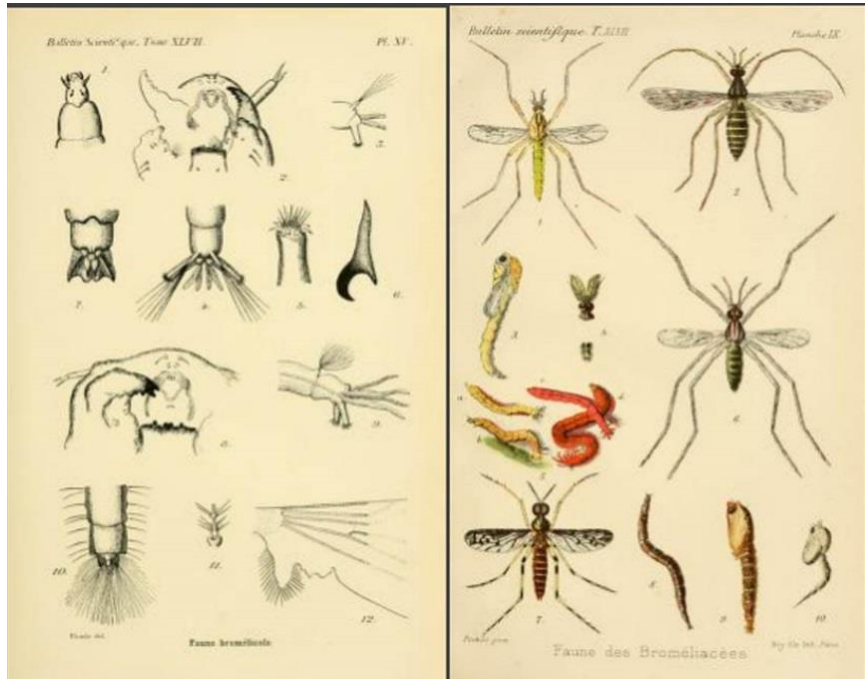
Collaborators. Caroline Chaboo, University of

Nebraska, Lincoln.

Goals. The goals of this project are to:

- Create a database of Diptera/plant interactions for phytotelmata of bromeliads and *Heliconia*.
- Review research on Diptera in phytotelmata.
- Contribute new knowledge to our understanding of Diptera in *Heliconia* plant held water.

Major findings. One presentation (Nov. 2017) and 2 manuscripts in preparation have been used to compile a list of all aquatic Diptera found in bromeliad and phytotelmata. Taxonomy of many species of aquatic Diptera found or described from phytotelmata may be in need of re-identification or their taxonomy needs to be updated. These plates from Picado (1913) shows how detailed some early work was in describing the species found in these habits and great detail was given to the natural history of both the plants and animals.



Citation. Picado, C. 1913. Les broméliacées épiphytes considérées comme milieu biologique. Las bromeliáceas epifitas consideradas como medio biológico. *Bulletin Scientifique de la France et de la Belgique*, 47(3), pp.215-360.

Support. This project is conducted under the auspices of the Wayne State College Department of Life Sciences and the School and Natural and Social Sciences.

Research Interactions. This project is related to the STEAM project, relating art to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.