

Introducing a new online journal on the research on hover flies (Diptera: Syrphidae): the "Journaal van Syrphidae"

Jeroen van Steenis, Leendert-Jan van der Ent, Francis Gilbert, Roger Morris, Gerard Pennards, Tsung-Hsueh (Bill) Wu & Axel M. Ssymank





An international journal on Syrphidae, "Journaal van Syrphidae" (http://zoobank.org/References/632F826B-7A33-4CA7-80D6-9B96135409C1), founded in 2022 by the Syrphidae Foundation. *JvS* publishes original work in the form of articles, comments, editorials and symposium papers on all topics concerning Syrphidae (Insecta, Diptera) from all biogeographical regions.

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- Frieda Zuidhoff

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Editorial

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Introducing a new online journal on the research on hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae): the "Journaal van Syrphidae"

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Abstract. Here we outline a new journal on Syrphidae (Insects, Diptera), the Journaal van Syrphidae (*JvS*). Its aim is to publish papers, comments and symposium abstracts as free and open-access online papers. An editorial board and peer-reviewers will maintain the scientific standard of the papers. The *JvS* will meet all standards of online publishing: papers will be given doi numbers and Zoobank registration. The Syrphidae Foundation through the 'Syrphidae in trees' website will provide financing through donations from syrphid-minded organisations and individuals.

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Introduction

A new journal "Journaal van Syrphidae" *JvS* (Fig. 1A) is a free, open-access online journal. Initially the project "Creating Breeding Sites for hoverflies" started to ensure survival of hoverflies in heavily managed forests in the Netherlands. This project was funded by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds (Fig. 1D), a foundation supporting projects in the field of culture and nature conservation in the Netherlands through financial contributions, assignments, prizes and grants. Through the work on the "Syrphidae in trees" project which faced a lack of financing possibilities for further research, a foundation specialized for syrphid research was established in 2021, the Syrphidae Foundation (https://www.syrphidaeintrees.com/syrphidae-foundation/).

Earlier support for intensified research on syrphidae during the last three decades came from a syrphid-only journal "Volucella" (https://volucella.de/), which published eight volumes between the years 1995 and 2007. As a result of the intensification of hoverfly research, starting from 2003, biennial International Symposia on Syrphidae were organized, taking place in several different countries supported by different institutions.

A platform for the publication of specific papers on the Syrphidae was a great gap in provision after the cessation of Volucella, and a restart of this journal was discussed several times. The reason for its cessation are debatable, but one of these was its rather narrow scope, focussing on the Palaearctic Region and Europe in particular. Another contributing factor was the very restricted editorial board, consisting of just two people, both of whom had demanding jobs besides their editorial duties for Volucella. *JvS* should be seen, not as a successor of Volucella, but as a new platform for fast and easy publishing hoverfly papers with a worldwide scope.

Through the EU-funded TAXO-Fly project to gather information on the identification, distribution, biology and photographs of all European Syrphidae, a new platform for fast publication of syrphid-related papers was initiated. The Syrphidae Foundation and its founder, i.e. the first author of this editorial, had such a journal in mind, further outlined in this editorial.

Syrphidae in trees

The website (https://www.syrphidaeintrees.com/) Syrphidae in trees (Fig. 1B) is hosting both the Syrphidae Foundation (Fig. 1C) and the Journaal van Syrphidae. First presented at the 5th International Symposium on Syrphidae in Novi Sad (2009), the project is still ongoing and progress will be announced on the website regularly. From this initiative, more ideas about promoting research on hoverflies were formulated, culminating into the start of the Syrphidae Foundation.

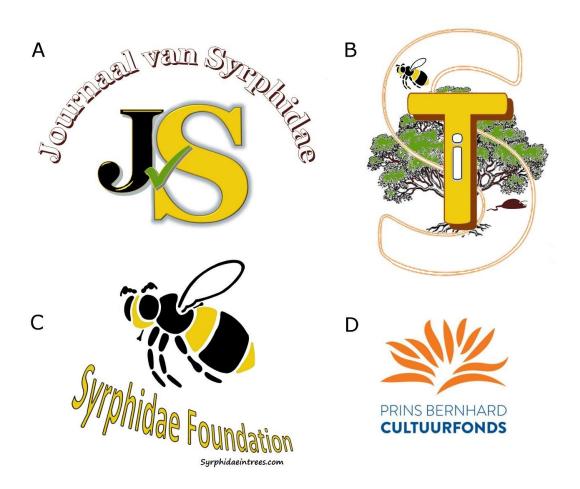


Figure 1. Logos **A**, Journaal van Syrphidae. **B**, Syrphidae in Trees. **C**, Syrphidae Foundation. **D**, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds.

Syrphidae Foundation

The Syrphidae Foundation was established in 2021 to promote scientific research on the Syrphidae. Besides raising awareness about the benefits of the Syrphidae for humankind, the Foundation is exploring ways of funding research and publications promoting research on the Syrphidae. The ultimate platform for this purpose was the establishing of a journal dedicated to all aspects of the Syrphidae without restrictions on the scope.

Journaal van Syrphidae

The new journal on the Syrphidae was founded under the auspices of the Syrphidae Foundation, with several people involved as editor and advisory board members. The current editors and its advisory board members are given on the title page for each published paper.

The contributions published in *JvS* can either be original articles, editorials or comments dealing with Syrphidae. The scope is very wide and basically all aspects of Syrphidae from all biogeographical regions can be accepted for publication, although description of single species is bound to strict rules. The language is English, but authors can submit abstracts in any other language. Original articles submitted to the journal proceed to an editorial check and a peer-review process before final acceptance and publication online

under a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0). All papers are given a DOI number (https://www.doi.org/) and registered in ZooBank (https://zoobank.org/): further archiving will be done though companies such as Crossref (https://www.crossref.org/), CLOCKSS (https://www.clockss.org/) and Web of Science (https://www.clockss.org/) and Web of Science (https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/web-of-science/). Registration of distributional data, type specimens or molecular data is encouraged or even mandatory, and will be done through GBIF (https://www.gbif.org/), ZooBank (http://zoobank.org/), GenBank (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/) or other appropriate organizations. The format of JvS has strict standards about citation, references, the specimens citation format and various other issues. Precise guidelines are published on the website (https://www.syrphidaeintrees.com/jvs/) and all further information can be found there.

The journal is e-based only, open access and free of charge. The Syrphidae Foundation will serve as financier of the journal, and donations are needed to get the journal going. All readers are thus kindly asked to donate an annual amount on a "broadest shoulders bearing the greatest burden" basis.

At first submission, the editor-in-chief will check if the paper adheres to the aim of the journal and the instructions for authors. Papers that are accepted by the editor-in-chief will be peer-reviewed.

Review process

Original submissions will go through a peer-review process planned to take 2–3 months, which may depend on the quality of the original submission. During submission, reviewers may be suggested by the corresponding author. It is to be hoped that the current large and active Syrphidae community will stimulate everybody to participate in the review process. After the peer-review process is finished, the paper will be sent back to the corresponding author for incorporation of the comments.

Contributions

The journal encourages authors to submit to the journal: the aim is to publish at least five papers per year. Depending on the size of the manuscript sent in for publication to **JvS**, the work that needs to be done will vary. Currently all editorial work is done on a voluntary basis, and thus there is still a need for editors and reviewers. All readers of the published papers are invited to submit their next paper to the Journaal van Syrphidae.

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