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Systematics, Phylogeny, Evolution and Diversity of True Bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Jerzy A. Lis
Institute of Biology, University of Opole, Opole, Poland

Dr. Kim Ribeiro Barão
Laboratório de Sistemática e Diversidade de Artrópodes, Unidade Educacional Penedo, Campus Arapiraca, Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Penedo, Alagoas, Brazil

Prof. Dr. Wanzhi Cai
Department of Entomology, China Agricultural University, Beijing 100193, China

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Message from the Guest Editors

Heteroptera or true bugs are members of the order Hemiptera and comprise about 40,000 species. They are distributed worldwide and exhibit high morphological, ecological, and behavioral diversity. Most of them are phytophagous or predators, and some are putative fungivores. As for most other insect groups, true bugs' higher classification has changed over time, but intensive phylogenetic research since the early 1990s based on morphological and molecular characters has shed new light on the monophyly of many heteropteran infraorders and superfamilies. Studies on fossil Heteroptera have also significantly influenced the presently accepted higher classifications of the suborder and suggest that there are still more taxa undescribed than described. Though many heteropteran superfamilies offer relatively stable internal classifications, some are still in need of further studies (e.g., Miroidea, Tingoidea, Pentatomoidea, or Lygaeoidea) since the recent molecular phylogenies show that their current classifications are probably not yet stable.