

Abstract:

Twisted-wings (Strepsiptera) are an endoparasitic order of insects with cosmopolitan distribution, which are sister group of Coleoptera. There are 7 known host insect orders. As a group with relatively small number of species (almost 600) and cryptic way of life, Strepsiptera were usually overlooked by entomologists. Majority of publications about Strepsiptera deal simply with description of new species. For many taxa of basal families, the host group is unknown, because just free flying male has been collected and described. In contrary, only a female collected with host is known in some species.

In derived families Xenidae and Stylopidae (parasitize Hymenoptera: Aculeata), there are known hosts in overwhelming majority of species. Many information about distribution of these groups can be extracted also from publications about hosts, where stylopized individuals are mentioned.

Presented thesis summarizes the distribution of Strepsiptera at the level of families and genera. It also provides an assessment of the occurs of Strepsiptera in different biogeographic regions with focus on their hosts.

Keywords: Twisted-wings, Strepsiptera, distribution, parasites, host group, biogeography