

Abstract

Batesian mimicry, the imitation of harmful species manifested by harmless ones, could bring a lower risk of predation to the mimetic species. Therefore, it occurs in many different taxa. Hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae) could stand for one of the most various mimics. This worldwide-distributed family is known for taking shape of many Aculeata species using plenty of different adaptation connected with colouration, morphology and even behaviour.

The aim of this work is to review the diversity of mimicry in Syrphidae, highlight the main selection pressures and to put forward a potential field of future research. Hoverflies are being studied for the last two hundred years. However, just several study approaches are dominating the field. In order to open a new chapter of their research, I bring a wider synthesis of knowledge related to the ecological and evolutionary context of this phenomenon.