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THIÊN NHIÊN VIỆT NAM  
VIETNAM NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Photo: *Pyrops clavatus*

# Vietnam, a champion for insect biodiversity: A win-win commitment

## Vietnamese Biodiversity

- High level of endemism (species occurring only in Vietnam): 10% of Vietnam's plants; 12 mammals, 7 birds, 48 reptiles, 33 amphibians, 80 freshwater fishes...
- 164 terrestrial protected areas (e.g. 32 national parks and 58 nature reserves), covering 7.5% of the country, virtually addressing all of Vietnam's major ecosystems.
- Vietnam contains 14 terrestrial ecoregions and 110 key biodiversity areas. It is the 16th most biodiverse country and is part of the Indo-Burma hotspot designated by Conservation International.

## What about insect diversity and its importance?

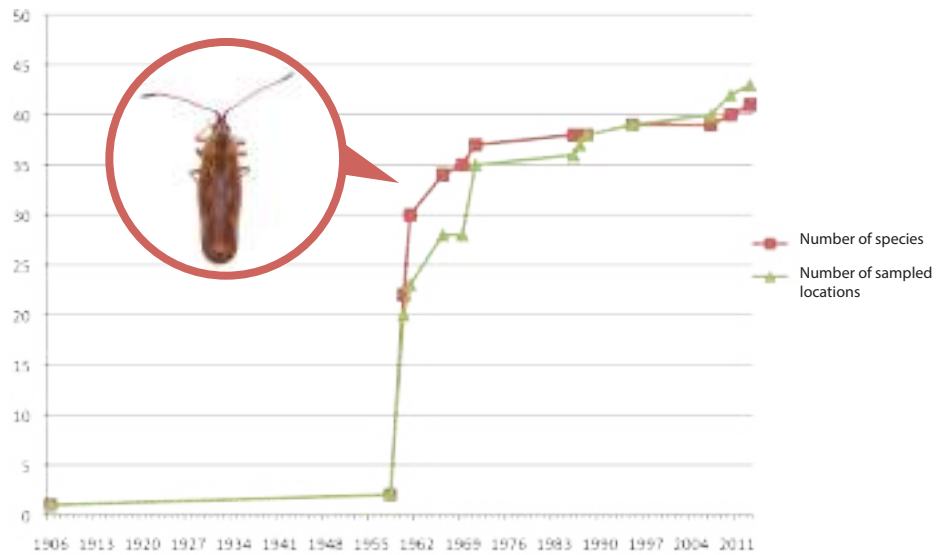
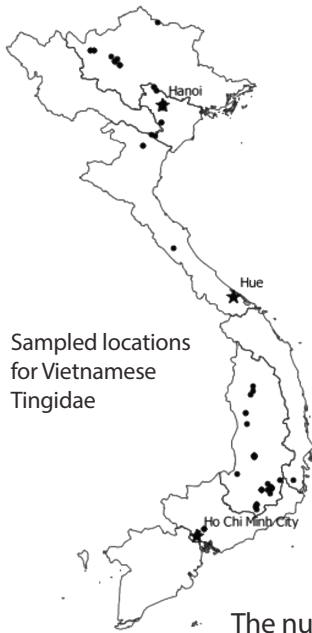
- An estimated 80% of species on earth are insects.
- About 20,000 species recorded from Vietnam represent only 10% of estimated diversity (200,000 species expected!).

**INSECTS = half of known species**





## Case study 1 - Lacebug diversity



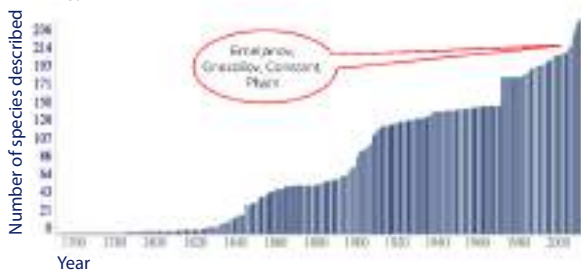
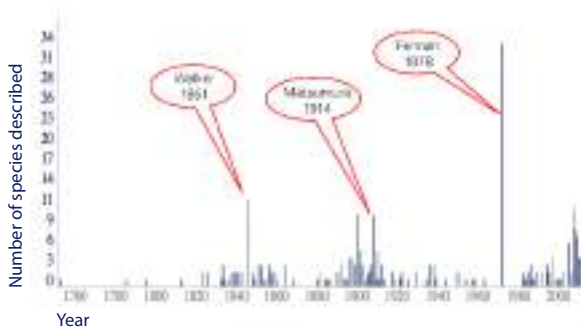
The number of species is directly related to the number of locations sampled.  
**Each new location sampled = Discovery of new species!**



## Case study 2 - Planthopper diversity



**Numerous peculiar habitats = Lots of very local species**



The higher number of species described from China is due to the number of Chinese scientists dedicated to the study of the group.

**The number of new species described depends on the number of specialists.**

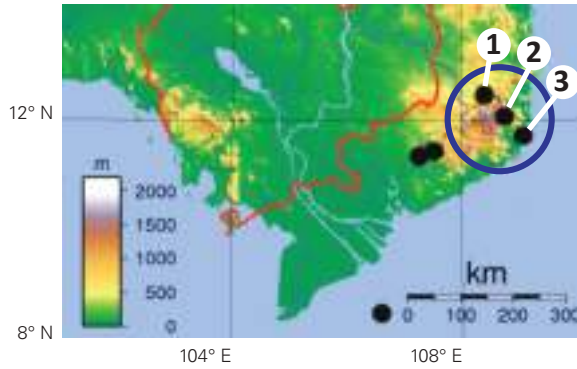
Number of planthopper species described per country/province  
 Source : <http://hemiptera-databases.org/flow/>  
 (December, 2017)



# Case study 3 - Stick insect diversity



Sampling areas



The sampled areas are three locations over a short distance (60km):

- Bidoup Nui Ba National Park (1)
- Phuoc Binh National Park (2)
- Nui Chua National Park (3)

Example of high rate of endemism in three protected areas of southern Central Vietnam.

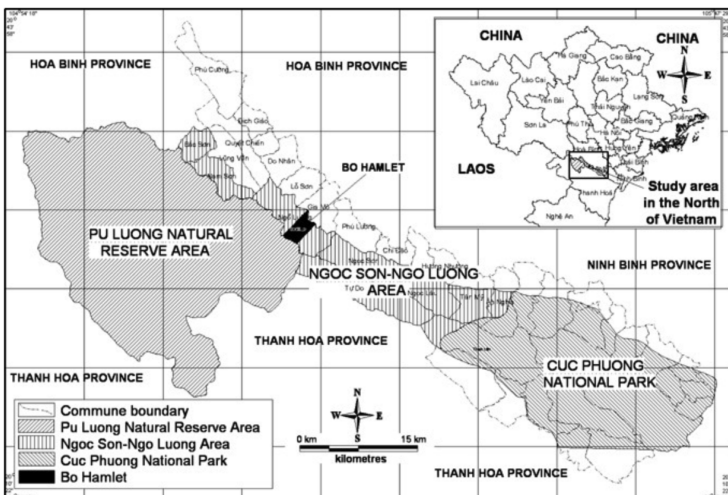


Each location contains its own unique species

Endemism in three protected areas of southern Central Vietnam. Three species of Leaf insects ("Bo La" - Vietnam Red Book)



Urgent need for more protected areas



Ngoc Son – Ngo Luong Nature Reserve Recently created (2006)

- Connection between Pu Luong Nature Reserve and Cuc Phuong National Park (corridor)
- Pu Luong: no data
- Cuc Phuong: 33 species
- Ngoc Son – Ngo Luong: 42 species

Corridors connecting protected areas are recommended

The biodiversity is already very rich but still very poorly known.  
It is fragile and threatened by deforestation, slash and burn agriculture,  
mining, poaching and pollution.



Efficient protection of biodiversity  
requires the commitment of scientists and conservationists.

#### SCIENCE

- Improve collecting and taxonomic capacities
- Explore and inventory unique habitats
- Describe the new species
- International collaboration
- Complete hotspot status with insect diversity

#### MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Taxonomic lists, online access, digitalization for Vietnam and for each park

#### CONSERVATION

- Communication
- Education
- Public awareness
- Develop the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Clearing House Mechanism (CHM - internet platform to share data)
- Ecotourism

- Vietnam = Hotspot also for insects!
- Each new location sampled = discovery of new species!
- More taxonomic experts = more new species!

- More efforts = more species
- Important to create more protected areas
- Important to connect protected areas with corridors



#### CONTRIBUTORS

- Luca Bartolozzi, Natural History Museum, University of Florence, Italy
- Joachim Bresseel, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), Brussels, Belgium
- Thierry Bourgoïn, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
- Jérôme Constant, RBINS, Brussels, Belgium
- Eric Guilbert, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
- Luc Janssens de Bisthoven, RBINS, Brussels, Belgium
- Sokha Kheam, Royal Phnom Penh University, Cambodia
- Sokchan Lorn, Royal Phnom Penh University, Cambodia
- Hong Thai Pham, Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi
- Adeline Soulier-Perkins, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
- Marie-Lucie Susini Ondafe, RBINS, Brussels, Belgium

This project runs with financial support from the **Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD)**, partim Global Taxonomy Initiative of the **CEBioS** programme.

MNHN participants were funded by the **LIA FV-TEL** (International Associate Laboratory France-Vietnam "Tropical Ecology Laboratory")

#### CONTACTS

- Marie-Lucie Susini Ondafe - mlsusini@naturalsciences.be
- Jérôme Constant - jconstant@naturalsciences.be
- <http://cebios.naturalsciences.be>
- Layout : Kristien Vrancken & Mado Berthet, CEBioS, 2017