

Balkan PolliS - General Progress Summary

Please provide a public summary of the progress of the project (the summary will be used in dissemination activities by TETTRIS on the 3PP):

Summary Requirement	Description
Context and overall objectives	<p>The project aims to create comprehensive species-level indexes of reference collections for hoverflies and bees on the Balkan Peninsula, including species-level indexes and resources for two largest European genera (Merodon and Cheilosia). Another important objective is preparation of reference collections of hoverflies and bees of the Balkan Peninsula. These collections will present an invaluable resource for reference purposes during determination of specimens of hoverflies and bees and will be essential for the successful species identification. The project also seeks to simplify hoverfly species identification through accessible digital images, supporting citizen scientists in pollinator monitoring. The project will also develop valuable molecular database which would facilitate identification hoverflies and establish essential reference collections for accurate specimen determination.</p>
Work performed and main achievements	<p>The project has made significant progress in consolidating and standardizing species-level indexes of hoverflies and bees across the Balkan Peninsula. Focus has now shifted to digital indexes for the two largest hoverfly genera, Merodon and Cheilosia. Preliminary frameworks for six national reference collections have been established, ensuring compatibility with GBIF standards. Significant progress has been made in photographing hoverfly specimens from the FSUNS collection, with a focus on capturing key taxonomic diagnostic characters. Efforts are ongoing to expand the range of species photographed and ensure that the images meet scientific and public accessibility standards. Preparations for the establishment of Balkan and European reference subcollections for hoverflies and bees are underway. The revision of the molecular library for hoverflies from the Balkan Peninsula has been completed, identifying species that lack molecular data.</p>
Outlook for the remaining activities in the project	<p>Most of the activities in each of the five project Tasks are planned to be carried out from the start of the project until the last month, therefore all the work related to them will proceed according to plan.</p>



Images attached to support the summary for publication





Pictures showing lab work to identify and process insects in the B&E lab, Lesvos (pictures 1,2) and in Chania, Crete (Picture 3)



Picture 4 and 5 showing part of the collection in FSUNS

! This general progress summary should not contain any confidential information as it will be shared publicly !