

## Call for Thereva

*Thereva* (Diptera: Therevidae) is a beautiful genus of stiletto flies with 121 valid species recorded from the Palaearctic realm. Despite their fair size, species concepts are poorly understood. Present-day entomologists rarely attempt identification due to several troublesome issues that prohibit a proper identification. In fact, the genus has been avoided for a long time and recent collections of this taxon have dwindled. **It is clear that this amazing fly family is in urgent need of renewed attention.**



Fig 1. *Thereva valida* Loew, 1847, female from Belgium (© Frank Vassen)

**In order to produce a revision of the Palaearctic fauna, it is necessary to study extensive amounts of both fresh specimens and private/institutional collections.** With contemporary techniques, e.g. high-resolution photography and barcoding, it is possible to solve much of the problematic legacy – although fresh specimens are needed. Therefore, I publish this letter, **to motivate entomologists to help me with that.**

I warmly invite the entomologic community in the Palaearctic realm to collect fresh specimens according to local legislation. I am most eager to study these specimens and include them in my revision. If you are interested to collaborate, just get in touch with me. Significant contributions will be fairly recognized in any research output produced by this project.

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