Completing Linnaeus's inventory of the Swedish insect fauna: only 5,000 species left?

Short title: Size and composition of insect faunas

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Abstract

Despite more than 250 years of taxonomic research, we still have only a vague idea about the true size and composition of the faunas and floras of the planet. Many biodiversity inventories provide limited insight because they focus on a small taxonomic subsample or a tiny geographic area. Here, we report on the size and composition of the Swedish insect fauna, thought to represent roughly half of the diversity of multicellular life in one of the largest European countries. Our results are based on more than a decade of data from the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative and its massive inventory of the country's insect fauna, the Swedish Malaise Trap Project The fauna is considered one of the best known in the world, but the initiative has nevertheless revealed a surprising amount of hidden diversity: more than 3,000 new species (301 new to science) have been documented so far. Here, we use three independent methods to analyze the true size and composition of the fauna at the family or subfamily level: (1) assessments by experts who have been working on the most poorly known groups in the fauna; (2) estimates based on the proportion of new species discovered in the Malaise trap inventory; and (3) extrapolations based on species abundance and incidence data from the inventory. For the last method, we develop a new estimator, the combined non-parametric estimator, which we show is less sensitive to poor coverage of the species pool than other popular estimators. The three methods converge on similar estimates of the size and composition of the fauna, suggesting that it comprises around 33,000 species. Of those, 8,600 (26%) were unknown at the start of the inventory and 5,000 (15%) still await discovery. We analyze the taxonomic and ecological composition of the estimated fauna, and show that most of the new species belong to Hymenoptera and Diptera groups that are

decomposers or parasitoids. Thus, current knowledge of the Swedish insect fauna is

strongly biased taxonomically and ecologically, and we show that similar but even

stronger biases have distorted our understanding of the fauna in the past. We analyze

latitudinal gradients in the size and composition of known European insect faunas and

show that several of the patterns contradict the Swedish data, presumably due to

similar knowledge biases. Addressing these biases is critical in understanding insect

biomes and the ecosystem services they provide. Our results emphasize the need to

broaden the taxonomic scope of current insect monitoring efforts, a task that is all the

more urgent as recent studies indicate a possible worldwide decline in insect faunas.

Introduction

More than 250 years after Linnaeus's pioneering attempts at charting the diversity of the planet, we still have only a vague idea about the true size and composition of faunas and floras. Current knowledge about global biodiversity is based on extrapolation from small samples to total global species richness based on questionable assumptions about ecology [1–3] or taxonomic classification [4].

In recent decades, an increasing number of inventories have tried to improve the precision of diversity estimates. However, many inventories provide limited insight because they focus on a small taxonomic or ecological subsample of a tiny geographic area [5, 6]. Tropical regions and biodiversity hotspots are popular inventory targets because of their spectacular diversity, but their faunas and floras also belong to the most challenging to characterize, and we are not even close to a complete inventory of any of these areas.

The focus on tropical diversity is based on the fact that the temperate regions have less to offer in terms of uncharted species richness. But how much do we actually know about the macroscopic floras and faunas (the multicellular organisms) of the most intensely studied corners of the planet? This is the question we address in the present paper.

Specifically, we focus on Sweden, one of the largest countries in Europe with respect to area, and its insect fauna, believed to comprise roughly half the diversity of multicellular organisms in the country. Thanks to the Linnaean legacy, the Swedish flora and fauna are among the best known in the world. Since 2002, the knowledge of Swedish organismal diversity has also increased substantially thanks to the Swedish

Taxonomy Initiative [7, 8], the aim of which is to completely chart the flora and fauna

of the country.

Insects have received a considerable amount of attention from the initiative. In

addition to supporting taxonomic research projects on the most poorly known insect

groups, the initiative has also funded a massive countrywide inventory, the Swedish

Malaise Trap Project [9, 10]. Malaise traps [11] are particularly effective in collecting

the insect orders Diptera (mosquitoes, gnats, midges and flies) and Hymenoptera

(sawflies, wasps, ants and bees), to which most of the poorly-known insect groups

belong.

At the start of the initiative, the known Swedish insect fauna was estimated to

comprise 24,300 species [12]. Since then, using a combination of traditional and

molecular methods, taxonomists have added 3,097 species, 301 of which have been

described as new to science (S1 Table). It is clear that many more species remain to

be discovered and described, challenging biologists to reexamine questions that were

long thought to have been satisfactorily answered: how large is the Swedish insect

fauna really, and what is its true taxonomic and ecological composition?

Here, we address these questions using three different methods. First, we

asked experts involved in the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative and the Malaise trap

inventory to provide informed guesses about the number of Swedish species for their

group(s). For critical groups, we then checked the expert assessments against two

independent species richness estimates based on data from the Malaise trap inventory,

the first based on the proportion of new species encountered, the second on

extrapolations from abundance and incidence data. For the latter, we develop a new

extrapolation method, the combined non-parametric estimator, which we show is less

sensitive to poor coverage of the species pool than other popular estimators. Because

the results from the three approaches are consistent, and the known species stock

constitutes such a large fraction of the predicted total (> 80%), we argue that our

results provide the first clear insights into the true size and composition of a sizeable

insect fauna.

We analyze the taxonomic and ecological composition of the estimated fauna,

and show that it is richer in Hymenoptera and Diptera than previously thought; it also

contains more decomposers and parasitoids. Using historical sources, we show that

similar biases have gravely distorted our understanding of the Swedish insect fauna in

the past. Finally, we compare latitudinal gradients in the size and composition of the

fauna, as indicated by the Malaise trap inventory, with those of known European

insect faunas. We argue that some of the discrepancies we see are caused by

knowledge biases affecting our current understanding of the latter.

Methods

171   **Methods**

Current knowledge of the Swedish insect fauna

Current knowledge of the Swedish insect fauna

To assess the current knowledge of the Swedish insect fauna, we used the

content of DynTaxa (http://dyntaxa.se), the official checklist of the Swedish flora and

fauna. Data were pulled from DynTaxa on February 8, 2017 (provided in S1 File). We

included all species recorded as reproducing ("Reproducerande"), accidental and

reproducing ("Tillfälligt reproducerande"), uncertain ("Osäker förekomst"), accidental

and not reproducing ("Tillfällig förekomst, ej reproducerande"), nationally extinct

("Nationellt utdöd"), no longer reproducing ("Ej längre reproducerande") or possibly

nationally extinct ("Möjligen nationellt outdöd"). Due to lack of knowledge, very few

insect species occurrence records in DynTaxa are currently classified into any of these

detailed categories; the species are simply assumed to be "reproducing". In well-

known insect groups, a handful of species are known to be accidentals or belong to

one of the other categories, but we chose to include them in the species counts to

avoid systematic bias towards higher counts in poorly known groups.

Five species lacked occurrence status information in Dyntaxa: *Dixella martini*

(Dixidae), *Aphis violae* (Aphididae), *Diaspis boisduvalii* (Diaspididae), *Cosmopterix*

pulchrimella (Cosmopterigidae) and *Haplothrips vuilleti* (Phlaeothripidae). They were

nevertheless included in our analysis as Swedish based on other data. The family

placement of *Sciarosoma nigriclava* (Diptera; listed as the junior synonym *S.*

borealis) is given as uncertain in Dyntaxa; it was included by us in the Diadocidiidae,

following the classification in Fauna Europaea [13]. Five species in DynTaxa lack

information about family classification, namely *Dimorphopterus spinolae* and

Ischnodemus sabuleti in Blissidae, and three species of *Cymus* in Cymidae: *C.*

claviculus, *C. glandicolor*, and *C. melanocephalus*. The family information was added

for these records. For a few taxa, the number of Swedish species given in the

DynTaxa 2017 checklist is obviously wrong and was corrected (details in S1 Table).

Historical knowledge of the Swedish insect fauna

Information was extracted from the three most comprehensive surveys

published before the start of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative. The first [14] lists all

Swedish insect species known to Linnaeus in 1761. These species were mapped to

currently valid species so that they could be placed in the classification used by us.

The second [15] and third [12] do not provide species lists. Instead, they summarize

the knowledge of the fauna at the time (1920–1922 and 2003, respectively) at higher

taxonomic levels, mostly at the family level, and give the estimated number of known

species of each taxon. We mapped these numbers onto the higher taxa in our

classification as detailed in the "Taxonomic composition" section below and in S1

Table. In addition, the 2003 numbers were corrected for some groups where they are

obviously wrong (see S1 Table for details).

For our analyses of data from the Swedish Malaise Trap Project, we needed

explicit species lists from 2003 of the target taxa. These were reconstructed with the

help of experts and the literature on each group. The resulting check lists from 2003

are provided in S1 File.

Known European insect faunas

Data on the European insect fauna were obtained from the Fauna Europaea

database (version 2.6, distribution 3) kindly provided by Yde de Jong. This version of

the database was current as of February 2017. The database includes both taxonomic

data and distribution data, detailing the occurrence of each species in each of the

European countries and geographic regions recognized in Fauna Europaea. The

database dump we used is provided in S1 File.

The Fauna Europaea data were used to analyze the latitudinal gradient in the

species richness of known European insect faunas. In this analysis, we excluded all

areas outside of Europe, as well as European areas of countries that mostly lie outside

of Europe (Russia and Turkey). We also excluded some exotic areas with faunas that

are not typical of the country they belong to: Madeira, the Selvagens Islands, the

Azores, Canary Islands, and Gibraltar. Country latitude data were taken from a file

provided by Google [16]. Land area data were taken from the EuroStat NUTS survey

in 2013 [17] and complemented with data from Wikipedia [18]. The raw data are

provided in S1 File.

Taxonomic composition

Taxonomic composition of the Swedish fauna was analyzed in terms of the families and orders recognized in the DynTaxa classification as of February 8, 2017. However, at the family level, we divided the three most species-rich insect families (Ichneumonidae, Braconidae and Staphylinidae) into subfamilies to make the family-level units more comparable in size. When data on the Swedish fauna were analyzed from older sources using a less detailed classification [14, 15], we split the listed species numbers based on the available literature from the time (see also S1 Table). The analysis of the European data, and of taxa expected to occur in Sweden, was based on the Fauna Europaea taxonomy [13].

Ecological composition

In the analysis of life-history traits, we focused on two traits that are conservative enough that they can be reasonably assumed, in most cases, to be homogeneous within the family-level groups we used: the main feeding niche and the main feeding (micro-)habitat. This is the niche and habitat of the immature stages (the main feeding stages), and may or may not be the same as the niche and habitat of more short-lived adult stages. Data were taken from standard works [15, 19–23] complemented with data from relevant taxonomic specialists and the primary literature.

Specifically, we defined the feeding niches as follows:

Parasite. This includes bloodsuckers, endoparasites (botflies) and exoparasites (lice).

Phytophage (plant feeder). This includes both chewers and sap suckers, as well as stem borers, leaf miners, root feeders and gall inducers.

Phytophage-parasitoid. This is restricted to all primary parasitoids of plant feeders.

Predator. This is restricted to free-living predators, it does not include parasitoids.

Predator-parasitoid. This includes both primary parasitoids of predators and all

hyperparasitoids (parasitoids of parasitoids).

Saprophage (decomposer). This includes scavengers, decomposers, fungivores and

microflora/bacterial grazers.

Saprophage-parasitoid. This is restricted to all primary parasitoids of decomposers.

The (micro-)habitats of the main feeding stages (larvae, nymphs) were defined

as follows:

Fungi. Within fruiting bodies of macrofungi.

Homeothermic animals. On homeothermic animals (birds, mammals). The habitat of

parasites (bloodsuckers, endoparasites and exoparasites).

Plants. In or on aerial parts of living plants, excluding wood.

Soil. In soil, including ground litter as well as living roots.

Temporary habitats. In or on ephemeral resources of rich nutrients, such as bird nests,

carrion, dung and fermenting sap. Also includes indoors habitats.

Water. In or on water.

Wood. In wood.

Groups were coded for the dominant trait; notable exceptions and other

comments are given in the tables. Because of different taxon or group

circumscriptions, the traits differ in a few cases between the Swedish fauna (S1

Table), the groups used in analyzing inventory data (S4 Table), and the European

fauna (S6 Table).

Expert estimates of the true fauna

Expert estimates of the total size of the Swedish fauna were based on the

opinions of taxonomic specialists with intimate knowledge of the Swedish insect

fauna. They were obtained for all family-level groups in the fauna at two occasions: in

2007, before the Malaise trap inventory material was processed, and in the spring of

2017 (current estimate). The 2007 estimates were based on less extensive surveys of

experts, and we only give them here for the target groups used in the species richness

analysis of the inventory data (S5 Table). The estimates from 2017 are detailed in S1

Table, together with the experts responsible for them.

For a few groups, we were not able to find local specialists willing to estimate

the total size of the fauna. In those cases, MF, RH and FR estimated the total size of

the Swedish fauna as follows. For small well-known groups (Diplura, Archaeognatha,

Zygentoma, Dermaptera), the current number of known species was accepted as the

estimate of the true fauna except in the case of Dermaptera, where we added one

expanding species known from nearby countries (*Labidura riparia*). Protura are

relatively well-known but rarely studied from a faunistic or systematic viewpoint, and

are thus likely to contain undiscovered species. We estimated the true fauna to be

30% larger than the currently known one (an increase by a factor of 1.3).

For the two main groups of vertebrate parasites, Phthiraptera and Siphonaptera,

we based our estimates on each family's host preferences. Families of parasites

exclusively or mainly on man and domestic mammals were considered well-known

and we accepted the current number as final. For families of parasites on wild rodents,

insectivores, bats and carnivores, plus siphonapteran parasites on birds, we increased

current numbers by a factor of 1.4. For phthirapteran families including parasites of

birds we used a factor of 1.6. This seemed reasonable considering the patterns of host

range, the fauna of hosts in Sweden, the fauna of these families in better studied

neighboring countries, and the relatively poor global taxonomic knowledge of

phthirapteran bird parasites. In two species-poor families where these considerations

suggested no addition, we nevertheless added expected species that are known from

neighboring countries (one each in Enderleinellidae and Hoplopleuridae).

Malaise trap inventory

For critical groups, we checked the expert assessments against two

independent species richness estimates based on data from the Swedish Malaise Trap

Project. The project is the first systematic inventory of the whole diversity of the

Swedish insect fauna, and it particularly targets the most poorly known groups in the

orders Diptera and Hymenoptera [9, 10]. The material was collected using 73 Malaise

traps, deployed at different sites throughout the country and representing a wide range

of habitats. Most of the traps were run continuously from 2003–2006, but some traps

were run for only part of this period, and a couple of traps were run in the period

2007–2009. Detailed data on the trap sites and the samples collected (1,919 samples

in total) are provided in S2 Table (see also http://www.stationlinne.se/en/research/the-

swedish-malaise-trap-project-smtp/). The trap sites were classified into four

biogeographic regions and six habitat classes to simplify analyses of the data (S2

Table).

The inventory material (unsorted material and identified specimens) is

deposited at the Swedish Museum of Natural History (http://www.nrm.se) through its

collaboration with the Station Linné Field Station (http://stationlinne.se). The material

is continuously sorted into more than 300 taxonomic fractions, mostly at the family or

subfamily level (see http://www.stationlinne.se/en/research/the-swedish-malaise-trap-

project-smtp/taxonomic-units-in-the-smtp/), which are sent out to experts for

identification. The returned data are validated and cleaned, and identifications are

matched to the national checklist (DynTaxa) as far as possible. Data on the sorted

fractions is available in a separate dataset at the Global Biodiversity Information

Facility portal (https://www.gbif.org), at the Swedish natural history collection portal

(https://naturarv.se) and at the Swedish biodiversity data hub (https://bioatlas.se). For

access to the material and for questions about the data, contact DK or JB.

Here, we analyze data from the first 165,000 specimens that have been

identified, representing about 1 % of the total catch [10]. The data analyzed here

represent all the cleaned data files that were available in the spring of 2017 (S3

Table). In total, there are 127 files, most of which contain abundance data (117 files),

but some of which only have incidence data (10 files). The incidence data include

several groups (Braconidae: Cheloninae, Braconidae: Rogadinae, Cecidomyiidae:

Porricondylinae (*sensu lato*) and Psylloidea) for which abundance data were not

reported consistently for all samples and species. The files are provided in the Data

Package in the Supporting Information.

We divided the data into 79 datasets, each corresponding to a set of samples of

a particular taxon or assemblage of taxa ("analysis taxon") processed by a different

expert or group of experts (S4 Table). The data are available in the data files provided

as Supporting Information. The analysis taxa mostly correspond to families or

subfamilies of Diptera and Hymenoptera, and to orders or major portions of orders for

other insect groups.

The analyzed information is estimated to represent from 2 to 67 % of the

entire catch of each analysis taxon (S4 Table). In total, the abundance data comprise

157,225 specimens (30,643 records) identified to 3,916 taxa. The incidence data

represent another 1,516 observations of 279 taxa. The incidence data roughly

corresponds to 7,800 specimens, if this material contained the same average number

of specimens per species and sample as the material covered by the abundance data.

Specimens or records that were determined only to genus level (marked by "sp." in

the Species field in the data file provided in the Supporting Information) were

removed prior to analyses of species richness and compositional trends. This affected

14,034 specimens (161 taxa) in the abundance data (most of these are females of

Phoridae, which cannot at this point be identified to species) and 36 records (8 taxa)

in the incidence data. In a few cases, determinations were to unspecified species that

may or may not be distinct (affecting 40 records of abundance data marked by "sp.

indet." in the Author field); these records were included in the analyses under the

assumption that they represent distinct species.

Species richness estimates

To estimate the total Swedish fauna of the target groups from Malaise trap

inventory data, we used two different approaches. The first approach was based on the

proportion of new species encountered in the inventory, using a method analogous to

mark-recapture estimation of population size. In the simplest form, the **mark-**

recapture estimator (**MR**) simply uses the fraction of new ('unmarked') species

encountered in a sample to extrapolate the number of known species (prior to

sampling) to the total number of species in the species pool. This version is known as

the Lincoln-Petersen method [24] or the Petersen-Lincoln index [25]. Unfortunately,

this estimator is biased when the sample size is small, and it is undefined when no

species of the group are known prior to sampling.

These problems are addressed by the **Chapman version of the MR** estimator

[26], which is defined as

$$\hat{S}_{MR} = \frac{S_{obs} + 1}{S_{obs,known} + 1} \times (S_{known} + 1) - 1,$$

where

S_{obs} = number of observed species,

$S_{obs,known}$ = number of observed species known previously, and

S_{known} = number of known species.

The Chapman version of the MR estimator was implemented in an R function, which

is provided in S1 File.

The second approach was based on extrapolations from the abundance and

incidence data of the inventory. For these extrapolations, we used species richness

estimators implemented in the R packages vegan, version 2.4-3 [27], BAT version

1.6.0 [28, 29] and in custom R functions (provided in S1 File). There are two types of

non-parametric estimators provided by vegan [see also 30]. The first set is based on

abundance data, and include the estimators commonly referred to as **Chao1** (called

abundance-based Chao in the vegan documentation) and **ACE** (the **abundance-based**

coverage estimator). These estimators are provided by the vegan function

'estimateR'. The second set is available through the vegan function 'specpool', and

include the estimators commonly referred to as **Chao2**, the **first-order jackknife**

(**Jack1**), the **second-order jackknife** (**Jack2**) and the **bootstrap** (**Boot**). The second

set of estimators is based on the incidence of species at the sample sites and can be

used both for abundance and incidence data, whereas the first set of estimators is only

applicable to abundance data. The vegan package also provides a **parametric species**

richness estimator (**Preston**) based on the Preston model through the functions

'prestonfit' and 'veiledspec'. It requires abundance data, which are fitted to a

lognormal model. See the vegan documentation for a discussion of these estimators

and how they are implemented in vegan, with references to the original literature.

To address some of the shortcomings of current estimators, which became

obvious in the course of our study, we developed a new non-parametric estimator,

which we call the **combined non-parametric estimator** (**CNE**). It is based on the

idea of combining the Chao1 and Chao2 extrapolations. The Chao1 extrapolation is

based on the number of singleton and doubleton specimens found in the total sample

[31]. This might be expected to estimate the fauna of the sample sites more accurately

than the total fauna, which is particularly problematic when trying to estimate the

fauna of a large and heterogeneous area from a sample coming from a small number

of sites. In contrast, the Chao2 extrapolation is based on the number of species that

occur at only one sampling site (singleton species) or at two sampling sites (doubleton

species) [32]. Thus, Chao2 explicitly takes the heterogeneity across sites into account,

which should result in a better estimate of the total fauna under these conditions.

In the Chao2 case, however, it is possible that we have underestimated the

number of singleton and doubleton species because of undersampling of the selected

sites. That is, more extensive sampling at the same sites would potentially result in the

discovery of more of the highly localized singleton and doubleton species occurring

there. Of course, more extensive sampling might also reduce the number of singleton

and doubleton species because some species may turn out to be more widespread than

indicated by the original sample. If many of the true singleton and doubleton species

are rare at the sites where they occur, then it might be reasonable to assume that the

proportion of singleton and doubleton species observed at a site would remain the

same even with more extensive sampling there.

This leads to an estimator applying a Chao1-type extrapolation to obtain an

estimate of the number of singleton and doubleton species one would have observed

with more extensive sampling of the selected sites. The estimated numbers of

singleton and doubleton species can then be used to estimate the size of the total fauna

using Chao2-type extrapolation.

Formally, define

$S^{(i)}$ = number of species at site i,

$S_{obs}^{(i)}$ = number of species observed at site i,

$S_1^{(i)}$ = number of species that only occur at site i,

$S_2^{(i)}$ = number of species that only occur at site i and one other site,

$S_{obs}^{(i)}(1)$ = number of species observed at site i and only there,

$S_{obs}^{(i)}(2)$ = number of species observed at site i and one other site,

$F_1^{(i)}$ = number of observed species at site i that are only observed once there,

$F_2^{(i)}$ = number of observed species at site i that are only observed twice there,

Q_1 = number of species that only occur at one site, and

Q_2 = number of species that only occur at two sites.

We now have the following estimators:

$$\hat{S}^{(i)} = S_{obs}^{(i)} + \frac{F_1^{(i)}(F_1^{(i)} - 1)}{2F_2^{(i)} + 1}$$

438   estimates the number of species at site i (this is the same as the Chao1 estimator),

$$\hat{S}_1^{(i)} = S_{obs}^{(i)}(1) + \frac{F_1^{(i)}(F_1^{(i)} - 1)}{2F_2^{(i)} + 1} \times \frac{S_{obs}^{(i)}(1)}{S_{obs}^{(i)}}$$

439   estimates the number of unique species at site i, and

$$\hat{S}_2^{(i)} = S_{obs}^{(i)}(2) + \frac{F_1^{(i)}(F_1^{(i)} - 1)}{2F_2^{(i)} + 1} \times \frac{S_{obs}^{(i)}(2)}{S_{obs}^{(i)}}$$

440   estimates the number of species occurring there and at one other site.

441   Since

$$Q_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} S_1^{(i)}$$

442   and

$$Q_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} S_2^{(i)},$$

443   we obtain the estimators

$$\hat{Q}_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{S}_1^{(i)}$$

444   and

$$\hat{Q}_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{S}_2^{(i)}.$$

445   This gives us the final species richness estimator (with correction for small samples)

$$\hat{S}_{CNE} = S_{obs} + \frac{\hat{Q}_1(\hat{Q}_1 - 1)}{2\hat{Q}_2 + 1}.$$

Most species richness estimators based on extrapolation are known to

underestimate diversity when the sample is small [33]. A recent paper [34] develops

an empirical correction for this bias in non-parametric species richness estimators.

These corrected estimators are provided in the BAT package. Specifically, we

explored the estimators referred to as **Chao1P**, **Chao2P**, **Jack1inP** and **Jack2inP** in

BAT. They correspond to the Chao1, Chao2, Jack1 and Jack2 estimators of vegan.

The corrected estimators were computed using the 'alpha.accum' function of the BAT

package.

Performance of species richness estimators

To assess the performance of the species richness estimators, we used test data

from two sources. First, we used well-studied groups, defined as those groups where

the inventory has not discovered any new species (S4 Table). As the 'true' diversity

for these groups, we used the number of species in the current expert estimate, which

was typically very close to if not identical to the number of known species (S4 Table).

As a second source of test data, we used the subset of species known in 2003 in the

more poorly studied groups, that is, those groups where the inventory did discover

new species (S4 Table). Specifically, the abundance or incidence data for the known

species in those groups were used to estimate the total number of known species in

the same groups. We detected no qualitative difference between these two data

sources (well-known groups versus known species in poorly studied groups), except

that the first set typically included a smaller number of specimens, and the sample

represented a much smaller fraction of the total species pool. We only included

groups with more than 100 specimens observed from more than 5 sites in the

analyses. The accuracy of the estimators was measured using the squared error and

bias of the log estimates, that is, $(\log \hat{S} - \log S)^2$ and $\log \hat{S} - \log S$, respectively,

where $\hat{S}$ is the estimate and S the true value.

Statistical analyses and visualization

473   For statistical analyses and for generating the plots shown in the paper, we

474   used standard functions in R, version 3.3.1 [35]. The R scripts are available in the

475   Data Package of the Supporting Information.

Results

Size of the fauna

The experts estimated that the Swedish insect fauna consists of approximately

33,000 species (S1 Table). This exceeds the 2003 estimate of the known fauna by

8,600 species and suggests that there are still around 5,500 species that remain to be

discovered or described. Those species are concentrated, however, to a small number

of taxa. Only ten of the 663 family-group taxa are expected to contain more than 100

of these missing species; only two of these taxa (Ichneumonidae: Cryptinae and

Pteromalidae, both Hymenoptera) still await attention from taxonomists funded

through the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative.

486   The identified specimens from the Malaise trap inventory (Fig. 1) fall into

4,026 species, of which 689 have been putatively identified as new to science. Of the

latter, only 87 have been described so far, forming part of the 301 new species to

science recorded from Sweden since the start of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative

(Table S1). A geographic and habitat breakdown of the inventory data for some key

taxa of Diptera and Hymenoptera shows that many of the new discoveries, including

species new to science, are made in mixed forests in the boreal and boreonemoral

zones (Figs 1, 2).

⸺

Fig 1. Results of the Malaise trap inventory by biogeographic region for ten

poorly known groups of Hymenoptera and Diptera.

The species new to science, new to Sweden, and known previously in each

biogeographic region are shown as a fraction of the total species pool of the group

encountered in the inventory. The dots on the map mark trap sites. Sampling effort is

given as the number of trap days represented by the processed samples for each taxon

and region. Many of the new species discovered in the inventory are found in the

boreal and boreonemoral zones. For details on the circumscription of each group, see

S4 Table.

Fig 2. Species found in the Malaise trap inventory by habitat. Data are given for

the same taxonomic groups as those in Fig 1. See S4 Table for detailed

circumscription of each analysis group. Many of the new species are found in forest

habitats.

——

Of the inventory data we analyzed, the bulk (35 groups; 120,530 specimens)

consists of abundance records for poorly known groups, where taxonomists have

found new Swedish species in the material. Together, these groups account for 29 %

(2,525 of 8,655 species) of the fauna that experts assume is present in the country but

that had not been recorded in 2003 (Table 1). Using the ratio of new to previously

known species in the catch of these groups to estimate total species richness (MR

estimator, analogous to mark-recapture approximation of population size) produces

results that are generally in line with expert guesses for these groups (Table 1; S5

Table).

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[1]First estimate from 2007, prior to inventory material being processed; second estimate current.

[2]Excludes the tribe Phaeogenini.

Before applying species richness estimators based on abundance and incidence

data from the inventory, we tested the accuracy of select methods using data for well-

known groups, and for the species pool known in 2003 of poorly known groups (S5

Table). In both cases, we thus know the total number of species in the pool, which

allows us to compute the accuracy of the estimates. The tests show that estimates tend

to become more accurate as the number of specimens (Fig 3A), sites (Fig 3B), or

specimens per site (Fig 3C) increases. However, it is the coverage (proportion of the

species pool that has been sampled) that largely determines accuracy (Fig 3D): it is

only at relatively high coverage (50–60% or more of the total number of species in the

pool) that the estimates become reasonably robust. When half the species have been

sampled, one can expect a worst-case squared error of the log estimates of

approximately 0.4, which means that the estimate may be off by a factor of 1.9 (close

to half or double the real species number). The average estimate is considerably

better, however.

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Fig 3. Accuracy of different estimators in predicting the species richness of well-

studied groups, and the species pool known in 2003 of more poorly studied

groups.

The plots show the accuracy (measured as squared error of log estimates) of the

species richness estimates as a function of the number of specimens (A), the number

of sites (B), the number of specimens per site (C), and the fraction of the species pool

sampled (D). The CNE outlier in (D) is Ichneumonidae: Adelognathinae, one of the

groups with the smallest number of specimens per site.

——

Chao1 and Chao2 consistently underestimate true species diversity unless the

coverage is very high, while CNE does better in terms of bias at the cost of increased

variance (Figs 3–4). All examined estimators are biased downwards, that is, they

underestimate the size of the true fauna, especially when a small proportion of the

species pool is sampled (Fig 4). The bias is less severe for the Preston and CNE

estimators, but this comes at the expense of increased variance. The estimators that

take heterogeneity across sites into account (Chao2 and CNE) do considerably better

than the estimators that do not (Chao1 and Preston) when a small fraction of the

species pool is sampled.

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Fig 4. Bias in species richness estimators as a function of the fraction of the

species pool sampled.

We show the bias in four species richness estimators: Chao1 (A), Chao2 (B), Preston

(C) and CNE (D). Bias is measured on the log scale; the horizontal line represents

absence of bias.

——

The empirical correction proposed in [34] is based on the sampling effort,

specifically the proportion of singletons and the number of specimens per species for

estimators based on abundance data for the total sample. The corresponding measures

of sampling effort for site-based data are the proportion of uniques, that is, the

proportion of species that are encountered at a single site, and the number of site

occurrences per species. These factors do correlate with the accuracy of estimators

(S1 Fig), but not as strongly as the coverage of the species pool (Fig 3D). Even at

high sampling intensities (the extreme right of the x axes in S1 Fig), the species

richness estimates can be quite misleading. These are conditions when the corrected

versions of the estimators are similar or identical to the original ones. There is

actually a tendency for the non-parametric estimators to do worse under these

settings, while there is no such trend for the parametric Preston estimator.

In terms of bias as a function of coverage of the species pool, the corrected

Chao1 estimator based on abundance data for the entire sample does not do much

better than the corresponding uncorrected versions (S2 Fig). However, the corrected

estimators (Chao1P, Jack1P, Jack2P) based on site occurrence data show a slight but

distinct improvement over the uncorrected versions (compare S2 Fig B with Fig 4B).

The poorly-known groups in the inventory are represented by six times as

many specimens as the well-known groups, and the inventory sample covers 50% or

more of the estimated fauna (according to expert assessments) in many cases (S5

Table; Fig 5), suggesting that species richness estimates may be reliable or at least

indicative of true species richness for these groups. The CNE estimates (Table 1; see

also S5 Table) also tend to be in line with expert guesses and mark-recapture

estimates, although there is considerable variation across groups. Conspicuous

outliers are associated primarily with groups where the inventory sample does not

cover the expected fauna well (S5 Table S5). Interestingly, the corrected versions of

the estimators based on site incidence data come close to the CNE estimates,

particularly Chao2P and Jack2P. The corrected Chao1p estimates, however, are not

very different from the Chao1 estimates; both appear to significantly underestimate

the true species pool (S5 Table).

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Fig 5. Species accumulation curves for some groups studied in the Malaise trap

inventory.

Accumulation curves are shown for the nine groups with the largest number of

identified specimens (Table 1, Table S5). Accumulation curves are based on 10,000

random perturbations of the accumulation order of sites. The horizontal lines

correspond to the expert guess from 2017 (Expert, dashed line), the estimate from the

mark-recapture method (MR, dotted line) and the estimate from the combined

nonparametric method (CNE, dashed and dotted line). Major disagreement among

estimates tends to be associated with groups that are not covered well by the sample.

In the Phoridae, the low coverage may be partly due to the small fraction (6%) of the

material processed; in other cases, like the Symphyta (30 % of the material

processed), it appears instead that it is due to the inefficiency of Malaise traps in

collecting these groups. DNA barcoding indicates that the accumulation curve for

Phoridae is too steep because aberrant male-genitalia variants are sometimes

misclassified by taxonomists as representing separate species [36]; this is likely to

partly explain the poor performance of species richness estimators for this group.

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Composition of the fauna

Given the good agreement between the expert assessments and the estimates

based on the inventory data for many of the critical groups, we assume in the

following that the true fauna corresponds to the expert assessments. What can we then

say about its composition? Taxonomically, the Swedish fauna is dominated by

Hymenoptera and Diptera (Figs 6 and 7 (left)), both orders dwarfing the Coleoptera

(beetles) and Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). There are more than twice as many

species of parasitic wasps alone as there are beetle species (Fig 6). With respect to

ecological composition, our results indicate that about half of the fauna consists of

phytophagous species and their parasitoids, while the decomposers and their

parsitoids constitute a third (Fig 7). The remaining sixth largely consists of predators

and their parasitoids. The species of plant feeders on average host nearly one

parasitoid species each, while the decomposer and predator guilds are attacked by far

fewer parasitoids. In terms of main feeding microhabitat, the fauna is dominated by

species associated with plants (Fig 7).

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Fig 6. Detailed view of the taxonomic composition of the true Swedish insect fauna, as

estimated here.

Each colored fragment represents a different family (subfamily for Ichneumonidae,

Braconidae and Staphylinidae); the width is proportional to the number of species. The

families are grouped into monophyletic higher clades according to our current understanding

of insect relationships. The inventory has shown that the true fauna is much richer in

Hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, ants and bees) and Diptera (midges, gnats, mosquitoes and

flies) than expected. These groups vastly outnumber Coleoptera (beetles), Lepidoptera

(butterflies and moths) and other insect orders in terms of species diversity.

Fig 7. Composition of the Swedish insect fauna, and changes in our understanding of the

composition brought about by the inventory.

The taxonomic and ecological composition of the true fauna, as estimated here (33,000 spp.),

is given to the left. The composition of the species that were still unknown in 2003 (8,600

spp., many of which still await discovery), as predicted by their phylogenetic affinities

(family or subfamily placement), is shown to the right.

——

Historical trends in the knowledge of the fauna

Analysis of the historical records show that the knowledge of the fauna has

always been worse than biologists realized at the time. The knowledge has also been

strongly biased both taxonomically and ecologically. Less than 5 % of the true fauna

was known to Linnaeus [18], mainly conspicuous insects living on plants, such as

butterflies, moths and herbivorous beetles (Fig 8). During the 20th century [11, 19], as

the fauna became better known, the proportion of Hymenoptera and Diptera increased

dramatically, as well as the proportion of decomposers and parasitoids.

These trends are quite noticeable even when comparing the fauna known in

2003 with the true fauna estimated here (Fig 7 (right)). The new species belong to a large

extent to the Hymenoptera and Diptera. Many of them are predicted to be decomposers or

parasitoids, and more often associated with fungi or temporary habitats than other insect

species. Thus, the new species substantially change our understanding of the composition of

the fauna (see also Fig 6)

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Fig 8. Changes in apparent composition of the Swedish insect fauna over time as

it has become better known. Over time, the apparent fraction of Hymenoptera and

Diptera species has increased dramatically. The same is true for the community of

decomposers and parasitoids (red bars). Changes in apparent microhabitat

composition have been less pronounced; most insects live on or in plants. However,

the proportion of species found in other microhabitats has increased over time.

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Latitudinal gradients in size and composition

If we assume a power law relating area to species diversity, then the Swedish

Malaise trap inventory data show a decline in diversity from the nemoral to the boreal

zone. Specifically, the logarithm of the number of species encountered in the

inventory divided by the logarithm of the area of the corresponding biogeographic

region decreases from 0.8 over 0.7 to 0.6 through the nemoral to boreal transition.

There is also a significant increase in the proportion of Diptera species and in the

proportion of decomposers with increasing latitude, but there is no such trend for

Hymenoptera or parasitoids (Fig. 9).

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Fig. 9. Compositional changes in the Swedish insect fauna over the nemoral to

boreal transition, as indicated by the Malaise trap inventory data. The plots show

the changes in the proportion of species that belong to Diptera (A) and Hymenoptera

(B), and the proportion of species that are decomposers (C) and parasitoids (D). The p

values were computed by comparing the observed values with a reference distribution

generated using 10,000 random permutations of the trap assignments to biogeographic

region. The arctic zone was excluded from this comparison because there is an order

of magnitude less inventory data for this zone, and data are lacking for key groups.

Sample sizes: nemoral zone 18 traps, 1,557 species; boreonemoral zone 29 traps,

2,693 species; and boreal zone 22 traps, 1,691 species.

——

The patterns in known European insect faunas are partly different. As

expected, the species richness of national faunas is determined to a large extent by the

land area of the country, as shown by a log–log regression analysis (Fig 10A). The

residuals from this regression (Fig 10B) reveal that there are three outliers — Belarus

(BY), San Marino (SM) and Iceland (IS) — that all have unexpectedly small insect

faunas given their land areas. This may be because the fauna is little known (or poorly

recorded in Fauna Europaea), or because of other factors. Controlling for the area

effect reveals a significant but surprisingly weak latitudinal gradient in species

richness (Fig 10C), and this effect disappears completely when all three outliers are

removed (Fig 10D), or when just the most extreme outlier, Iceland, is omitted (plot

not shown; r^2=0.03, p=0.31).

——

Fig 10. Latitudinal gradient in overall species richness of national European

insect faunas, as documented by the Fauna Europaea database. (A) Relationship

between country area and the species richness of its insect fauna (log-log plot). (B)

Residuals from the previous plot. Note three outliers — Belarus (BY), San Marino

(SM) and Iceland (IS) — with unexpectedly small insect faunas. (C) Latitudinal

gradient in species richness after the area effect is removed, using all data. (D) Ditto,

after removal of the three outliers.

——

The Fauna Europaea data reveal a significant northern increase in the

proportion of Diptera species (Fig 11A) and in the proportion of decomposers (Fig

11B), as indicated also by the Swedish Malaise trap inventory data (Fig 9). However,

the European data also support a northern increase in the proportion of Hymenoptera

species (Fig 11C and parasitoid species (Fig 11D). There is no suggestion of such

trends in the Swedish data (Fig 9).

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Fig 11. Latitudinal trends in the composition of national European insect faunas,

as documented by the Fauna Europaea database. The plots show the latitudinal

gradients in the proportion of species that belong to Diptera (A) and Hymenoptera

(B), and the proportion of species that are decomposers (C) and parasitoids (D). Three

outliers (see Fig 10B) were removed from these analyses.

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Discussion

Estimating species richness using statistical methods is notoriously difficult.

One problem is that species pools are dynamic over time. Species come and go, and

there may also be increases or decreases in the total size of the fauna. All the

estimators we explored assume that the species pool is constant during the sampling

period. Even though the sampling period of the Malaise trap inventory spanned over

three years, we consider this assumption to be justified.

A more serious cause of trouble is that the species richness statistic is as

sensitive to rare and hard-to-detect species as it is to common ones [37]. This is one of

the main reasons why most methods tend to underestimate actual diversity in practice

[30, 33, 34]. Our results clearly show how important it is to account for heterogeneity

across sampling sites when estimating the species pool of a large and heterogeneous

geographic area. All estimators that are entirely or partly based on variation across

sites (Chao2, Jack1, Jack2 and CNE) do considerably better than the estimators that

use abundance data from the pooled sample (Chao1, Preston). This suggests that

parametric estimators, such as Preston, which can in principle address the unequal

abundance of species, need to be developed such that they also address the spatial

variation in the frequency of species in the species pool.

Despite the inherent difficulties of estimating species richness, our combined

non-parametric estimator (CNE) comes very close to the expert assessments of the

diversity in the critical groups for which we have data (Table 1; S5 Table). The same

is true for the incidence-based estimators that include a correction for low sampling

intensity, in particular Chao2P and Jack2P. The advantage of our CNE method over

the latter is that it is based on testable assumptions about the causes of

underestimation at low sampling intensities.

The mark-recapture estimator (MR) also comes very close to expert opinion

about the likely diversity of the critical groups (Table 1; S5 Table). It is worth

pointing out that this estimate is based on a completely different source of information

(the proportion of new species encountered in the sample) than the other estimators

considered here. The expert assessments themselves are probably based to some

extent also on the proportion of new species encountered in the Malaise trap inventory

but they presumably also account for species abundance and incidence data. They are

also based on knowledge of the biology and distribution of the group, special

circumstances affecting particular Malaise trap catches, and data from other collecting

efforts than the Malaise trap inventory.

In conclusion, several lines of reasoning suggest that our estimate of the

Swedish insect fauna represents the most accurate picture yet of the true size and

composition of a sizeable temperate insect fauna. First and foremost, the Swedish

insect fauna is one of the best known in the world, which reduces the uncertainty in

the extrapolations needed to predict the total, and allows us to learn about the

strengths and weaknesses of the extrapolation methods using a wide range of groups

for which we have reliable data on the total diversity. If we include the species

identified in the inventory as new to science but not yet described, approximately

28,000 insect species are now known from Sweden, leaving only 5,000 expected

species (15 %) that remain to be discovered. This possibly represents the smallest gap

between the known and the true species stocks of any major insect fauna studied to

date. Second, the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative has funded more than 15 years of

focused research on the most poorly known groups in the Swedish insect fauna,

precisely the ones that are critical for estimating the size and composition of the true

fauna. Finally, the three independent approaches used here to estimate the total

generate consistent results, as detailed above.

Thus, it appears that we can, for the first time, answer some basal questions

about the composition of the fauna with some precision. The answers themselves give

rise to new questions. For instance, it appears that the plant feeders and their

parasitoids comprise about one half of the fauna, while decomposers and their

parasitoids constitute one third. Why is this the case? Why is it that there are fewer

parasitoids per decomposer species than there are per plant feeder? Clearly, pursuing

the answers to those questions will generate important new insights into the structure

and function of the insect ecosystems in Sweden and elsewhere.

Our analysis of historical data clearly shows how dramatically our

understanding of the Swedish insect fauna has changed since Linnaeus's times. Even

as we appear to approach a complete picture of the fauna, the composition is still

changing markedly (Figs 7 (right) and 8). Given this, one may be justified in asking to

what extent knowledge biases similar to the ones distorting our view of the Swedish

insect fauna in the past may affect our current perception of worldwide patterns in

insect faunas. For instance, the Swedish fauna is richer in Hymenoptera and Diptera

than in Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, and this has been known to be the case for

temperate insect faunas for some time. Tropical insect faunas, however, are famous

for their richness in beetles. In the past, this difference has been assumed to be real

[38–39], but recent studies suggest that the poor representation of Diptera and

Hymenoptera in tropical faunas is more likely due to insufficient study [40–46].

Somewhat surprisingly, there is no significant decrease in species diversity

with increasing latitude in known European insect faunas, if Iceland is omitted from

the analysis (Fig 10). However, this may well be due to insufficient study of the insect

faunas of southern Europe [see also 47]. The Swedish inventory data do show the

expected decrease in diversity over the nemoral to boreal transition. The European

data reveal an increase in Hymenoptera and parasitoids with increasing latitude (Fig

11), but the Swedish data (Fig 9) suggest that these trends may be artifactual. On the

other hand, the Swedish data do support a northern increase in Diptera and

decomposers, as documented by the European data.

In recent years, insect faunas have increasingly been studied with DNA

barcoding methods. It is interesting to compare our results with those of a recent study

of the Canadian insect fauna based on DNA barcoding of insects collected with

Malaise traps, pitfall traps, sweep nets, intercept traps and light traps [48]. To our

knowledge, this is the most extensive barcoding study of an insect fauna published

thus far. The Canadian study agrees with ours in finding extensive undocumented

Diptera diversity, more than doubling previous estimates, but fails to detect a similar

effect for Hymenoptera. Thus, the Canadian fauna is supposedly much richer in

Diptera than in Hymenoptera, in contrast to the inferred Swedish fauna. It is possible

that the faunas are indeed different, but we consider it more likely that the Canadian

results are misleading because of the low coverage of many critical Hymenoptera taxa

and the low success in barcoding hymenopterans [see also 49]. It is true that the

Canadian study is based on a larger sample than our study (1,000,000 versus 165,000

specimens). However, the Canadian study also covers a larger geographic area,

analyzes a larger and less studied fauna, and lacks the focus on critical taxa

characterizing the data reported here. It is also unclear what principles were used to

select specimens for barcoding; without specific selection criteria, it does not appear

unlikely that many critical taxa of small Hymenoptera and Diptera were

underrepresented. Furthermore, most of the genetically circumscribed species in the

Canadian study (BINs) lack morphological validation. Thus, we argue that our data

are more informative about the true size and composition of the Swedish insect fauna,

than the Canadian data are about the Canadian fauna.

It appears unlikely that the apparent difference in taxonomic composition

between the Swedish and Canadian insect faunas is due to undetected cryptic diversity

of Diptera in Sweden. DNA barcoding tends to be consistent with traditional

morphology-based taxonomy when sufficient resources have gone into the latter [50–

53]. Barcoding of critical Swedish Diptera taxa (Phoridae, Cecidomyiidae,

Chironomidae, and Mycetophilidae) have revealed 0–20 % cryptic diversity [36, 54,

55] but similar results have been obtained for parasitic Hymenoptera [56]. If anything,

it seems likely that systematic and large-scale DNA barcoding will show that our

current estimates for Swedish insect groups are conservative both for Diptera and

Hymenoptera.

Metabarcoding, simultaneous DNA barcoding of all specimens in a bulk

sample using high-throughput sequencing platforms, promises to revolutionize the

inventory of faunas and floras. However, these methods are still in development.

Recent results show surprising inconsistencies in metabarcoding results for Malaise

trap samples depending on whether the preservative ethanol or tissue homogenate is

used [57]. Specifically, it appears that small and weakly sclerotized insects, which are

detected in preservative ethanol, are easily missed in tissue homogenate because the

signal is swamped by the DNA from larger insects. What is true for tissue

homogenate may also be true for the standard lysis protocols used in metabarcoding,

which are quite aggressive. For instance, a recent study noted that their metabarcoding

protocol failed to pick up a lot of the diversity of small insects that was visually

apparent in the sample [58]. They also showed that separate analysis of different

taxonomic fractions from the sample revealed more diversity than a single analysis of

the pooled sample. Thus, there is more development work needed before the full

power of metabarcoding can be effectively brought to bear on questions about the true

size and composition of large insect faunas.

Recent years have also seen the development of promising new approaches

that reduce the cost of single-specimen DNA barcoding to such an extent that large

numbers of specimens can be processed [59–61]. In contrast to metabarcoding, these

methods allow individual specimens with deviating genetic signal to be identified and

studied by taxonomists post sequencing. This will reduce or even eliminate the need

for morphospecies sorting of material intended for taxonomic study, thus accelerating

the discovery of cryptic species and enabling rapid processing of thousands of

specimens of understudied taxa [62, 63].

What is abundantly clear from this study is that our current understanding of

the size and composition of most insect faunas, even those of the temperate region, is

seriously biased because of the lack of study of large and important taxonomic and

ecological groups [see also 64]. This impedes our understanding of how insect faunas

are composed, and our ability to monitor the ecosystem services they provide.

Addressing this knowledge gap is all the more urgent as we may possibly be facing a

worldwide decline in the abundance and diversity of insects [65–67; but see also 68,

69].

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work, applied statistical analyses and drafted the first version of the manuscript; MF,
SiH, DK, RH, JB, KH assembled and cleaned data, collected expert estimates,
contributed to analyses, and helped prepare figures, tables and supporting
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Supporting Information

S1 Table. Taxonomic and biological data for the Swedish insect fauna. Data from older sources were reorganized to match the taxonomic classification of DynTaxa in 2017. Yellow cells are commented in the 'Comments' column. Obvious errors detected in Gärdenfors et al. (2003) and in the DynTaxa data from 2017 were corrected, as noted in the comments, and the corrected numbers were used in all analyses.

S2 Table. Data on the trap sites and samples from the Malaise trap inventory. Sheet 1 contains information about the location of the trap sites, the habitat at those sites, and collecting period. Sheet 2 contains information about the collecting events and the corresponding dates, used to compute the total collecting effort represented by the samples that have been processed for different groups.

S3 Table. Overview of Malaise trap inventory data files. The table provides an overview of the raw data files and their content.

S4 Table. Overview of the groups used in the species richness estimation. The analysis groups ('Analysis taxon') match the specimen batches processed by different taxonomic experts, each corresponding to a different subset of samples and sites for a specific taxon or group of taxa, and therefore do not always match the family-level taxa used in the compositional analyses (Table S1). The proportion of samples processed of each group was estimated based on data from the sorting of 1481 of the 1919 samples (77% of the entire material). In a few cases, as noted in the table, the

1116   sorting fractions did not match the analysis groups, and instead the proportion of the

1117   catch was estimated from 100 arbitrarily chosen samples sorted to the appropriate

1118   groups.

1119

S5 Table. Species richness estimates. The data are divided into four subsets,

presented on different sheets in the file. The first sheet gives the data for the groups

where new species have been found in the Malaise trap inventory ('poorly studied

groups') and where abundance data are available. The second sheet gives the data for

poorly studied groups where only incidence data are available. The third and fourth

sheets give the richness estimates based on abundance and incidence data,

respectively, for 'well-studied groups', defined as those groups where no new species

have been found in the inventory.

1128

S6 Table. Taxonomic overview and life-history traits for the Fauna Europaea

data. Life history traits are given for the family-level taxa used in the analysis of the

Fauna Europaea data. Note that these family-level taxa occasionally deviate from the

family-level taxa used in the analysis of the Swedish data. In the comparative analyses

of European insect faunas, the data for the Swedish fauna was taken from Fauna

Europaea. These data largely correspond to the knowledge of the Swedish fauna in

2003 as documented in Table S1; we did not attempt to correct the data.

1136

S1 Figure. **Accuracy of different estimators in predicting the species richness of**

well-studied groups, and the species pool known in 2003 of more poorly studied

groups. The plots show the accuracy (measured as squared error of log estimates) of

the species richness estimates as a function of the proportion of singletons (A), the

proportion of uniques (B), the number of specimens per species (C), and the number

of site observations per species (D). A "singleton" is a species represented by a single

specimen; a "unique" is a species that only occurs at one site.

1144

1145 **S2 Figure. Bias in P-corrected species richness estimators as a function of the**

1146 **fraction of the species pool sampled**. We show the bias in four P-corrected species

1147 richness estimators: Chao1P (A), Chao2P (B), Jack1P (C) and Jack2P (D). Bias is

1148 measured on the log scale; the horizontal line represents absence of bias.

1149

1150 **S1 File. Data package**. The data, together with the R scripts and shell scripts used to

1151 generate analyses and figures, are provided in a zipped folder. The files are organized

1152 in ten subdirectories. The ReadMe file describes these subdirectories and gives

1153 instructions on how to run the analyses and generate the figures. □

Open meagre damp habitat

New to science
New to Sweden
Previously known

Hymenoptera

Diptera

Forest: nemoral deciduous forest

Open meagre dry habitat

Forest: boreal deciduous forest

Open lush habitat

Forest: coniferous forest

Effort per habitat

Forest: coniferous forest
Forest: boreal deciduous forest
Forest: nemoral deciduous forest
Open lush habitat
Open meagre damp habitat
Open meagre dry habitat

500 species

Hexapoda excluding Holometabola [182 groups; 3 274 species]

Springtails + Protura

Archaeognatha

Diplura

Zygentoma

Palaeoptera

Polyneoptera

Psocodea

Condylognatha

Aphids

Leafhoppers

Hymenoptera [131 groups; 11 100 species]

Tenthredinid sawflies

Parasitic wasps

Ants

Antliophora (Diptera+) [121 groups; 10 328 species]

Gall midges

Chironomid midges

Mycetophilid gnats

Scuttle flies

House flies

Neuropterida (Coleoptera+) [137 groups; 5 014 species]

Ground beetles

Rove beetles

Weevils

Amphiesmenoptera (Lepidoptera+Trichoptera) [94 groups; 3 226 species]

Tortrix moths

Geometer moths

Owlets

Butterflies

Taxonomic composition, true fauna

Taxonomic composition, new species

Niche composition, true fauna

Niche composition, new species

Habitat composition, true fauna

Habitat composition, new species

Taxonomic composition

Niche composition

Habitat composition