

The *Ascalaphus* Summer School 2001

Final Report



Editors

Kazimir Drašlar
Uwe Wolfrum

A Joint Project

University of Ljubljana,
Biotechnical Faculty
Department of Biology
&
Johannes Gutenberg
University Mainz,
Institute for Zoology I

The owlfly Libelloides (=Ascalaphus) macaronius (order Neuroptera) was described in 1763 by the correspondent of Carolus Linnaeus, Johannes Antonius Scopoli, while he was a physician in Slovenian mining town Idria.

Ascalaphus is a daytime predator inhabiting warm, dry, uncultivated meadows from Slovenia to Caucasus, and is famous due to the unique spectral sensitivity of its dorsofrontal eye that ranges only over the ultra-violet part of the solar spectrum. Ascalaphus lives as an adult imago only for approximately two months in the summer; even then, it is actively hunting only under unobscured skies.

The aim of the Ascalaphus Summer School 2001 was to get additional insight into the life of this knight among insects by studying its biology on all levels from the molecules towards the ecology.

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Prof. Uwe Wolfrum [Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany]

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