

# HOW MANY DARWIN WASPS ARE OUT THERE? ESTIMATION OF ORIENTAL FAUNA DIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES

Date	Jan 26 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)
Time	16:00 (UTC+8)
Venue	3N01 & Zoom



The Darwin Wasps (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae) is the largest and important component of invertebrate diversity. Having parasitoid lifestyle they play important ecological roles as pollinators and natural controllers of insect populations, including those that are detrimental to human economy and health. Thus, they have vast potential for use in bio-control and conservation programs. To manage and conserve these insects we need to inventory their diversity. How many Darwin Wasps species are living on Earth and in its different parts? There are 25000 species described but how global fauna can be estimated? Current average species description rate suggests that 300 years required to describe this diversity. This is the call for conservation measures.



## About speaker:

Dr Alexey Reshchikov has already done research on Hymenoptera over 20 years. Currently I am busy with my HKU project: Establishing the diversity and status of Hong Kong's Wasps. My earlier professional background includes PhD in The University of Tartu (Estonia), research projects at the Natural History Museum in Stockholm (Sweden), the Natural History Museum in Oslo (Norway), and leaf mining birch sawfly biocontrol project at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (MA, USA).