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Invertebrate of the Month

September 2007



Small Headed flies

Looking a bit like bees this fly belongs to the family Acroceridae (Small-Headed, or Balloon Flies). They are a small family of Diptera, the larvae of which are internal parasites of spiders. They are the cyclops of the insect world, and have holoptic eyes, with some species having their eyes fused into one singular, almost spherical eye. Adults range from 2 mm to 30 mm in length and vary from dull to brilliantly coloured. Most species are rare and very little is known of their biology and ecology.