

Summary: Paul Tinerella, Heteroptera (Aquatic Truebugs)

Dr. Paul Tinerella has been involved with the Thicket of Diversity since 2008 as a Taxonomic Working Inventory Group leader. His specialty is Entomology. He has served as the Curator of Entomology for the University of Minnesota Insect Collections and was an Honors Program Instructor for their Environmental, Science, Policy, and Management Program. He chaired the Thicket of Diversity virtually in 2015-16.

In 2009 Tinerella was funded \$9930 for “*Biotic Inventory of Aquatic True Bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera: Nepomorpha: Gerromorpha, leptopodomorpha) of Big Thicket National Preserve, USA.*” His research included collection of more than 5,000 specimens constituting 250 species.

In 2014 Tinerella submitted another project, “*Continued Biotic Survey: Aquatic True Bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera: Nepomorpha, Gerromorpha, Leptopodomorpha) and Aquatic beetles (Insecta: Coleoptera) of Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas, USA.*” This proposal request was approved for \$4893 with funds to come from TCEQ mitigation monies to the Big Thicket Association.

On August 5-12, 2014 Tinerella made one trip to the Big Thicket accompanied by ToD Director Mona Halvorsen to 46 localities throughout all units of the Big Thicket National Preserve and localities adjacent in Orange and Tyler Counties. A total of 750 specimens of aquatic true bugs and aquatic beetles was collected. 49 species of true bugs and 58 species of aquatic beetles were identified in the inventory. The checklist consisted of 32 new state records of which most were previously unreported for BITH.

Both projects were completed successfully. Data was shared with the National Park Service and input into IRMA.

In Spring 2025 Tinerella submitted a proposal “Continued Biotic Survey: Aquatic True Bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera: Nepomorpha, Gerromorpha, Leptopodomorpha) and Aquatic Beetles (Insecta: Coleoptera) of Big Thicket Region of Southeast Texas, USA.” It was funded for \$12,060. He experienced difficulties acquiring a permit from the Big Thicket National Preserve. He applied to The Nature Conservancy and the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust. Both organizations granted a permit to conduct inventory work on properties in close proximity or adjacent to the preserve. He traveled to the area in June with his daughter and began his research.

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