Public Abstract
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The world embraces innumerable living organisms with varied direct and indirect effects on mankind. In this interactive world, it is important to distinguish not only the physical forces driving it but also the interacting organisms: their kinds, nature and activities. This study in Tanzania was mainly about identifying insects in the family Naucoridae. Naucorids are commonly known as creeping water bugs or saucer bugs, and they belong to the order of true bugs. While some organisms act as competitors with man for the same diminishing resources, others like these naucorids directly affect the health of humans by possibly acting as transmission agents of Buruli ulcer, a skin eating disease. In contrast, naucorids are beneficial because they devour larvae of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. Several studies about true bugs have been conducted at high profile areas such as national parks in Africa but never before in Tanzania, hence the need for this study. This study presents an identification guide for the species of naucorids of Tanzania and added the previously undiscovered and undescribed species Neomacrocoris bondelaufa and Neomacrocoris vuga. This study can be looked at as a substantial contribution to science in that it presents new discoveries pertaining to issues related to water bugs in Tanzania.