

## The global rulers

Directed by: Carlo & Lodovico Prola Produced by: Ditta Prola Duration: 26' Versions: III Format: SD

The number of insects that live in our world today far exceeds the total population of all other living organisms put together. Over 900,000 different species of insects are known, an enormous and impressive number.

Since it is estimated that for every human being on earth there are over 200 million insects, we should consider ourselves lucky that it is only occasionally that an insect pesters us and other warm-blooded animals.

We don't know exactly when insects first appeared on our planet. The oldest insect fossil dates to 400 million years ago. Once bugs conquered the earth, an excellent invention, wings, permitted them to also invade the air space. Since then they have never ceased to diversify, to develop into new species, occupying an infinite number of different ecological niches.

Even at this very moment, somewhere in the world, new insect species are being born. The total number of different animal species in the world is estimated at just over 1,200,000. Of these over 900,000 are insects.



