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Wacław Wojciechowski – 70th birthday

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Wacław Bronisław WOJCIECHOWSKI was born in Potok-Stany in the former district of Lublin on 20th January 1945. Between 1958 and 1962 he attended the Secondary Comprehensive School in Zaklików. On graduating from the Technical School of Analytics in Lublin in 1965, he started to study at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, Maria Skłodowska-Curie University, Lublin, in 1966. From the beginning he was associated with the Department of Systematic Zoology (later the Department of Zoology). He graduated in 1972 and a year later moved from Lublin to Silesia, where he became a university teacher at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Silesian University, on 1st July 1973. At that time he became interested in aphids, focusing on their taxonomic diversity (MSc Thesis) and phylogenetic relations. His studies of the course of aphid evolution were based on the morphological analysis of the structure of the male reproductive system and the digestive system (a series of papers in which he was a co-author – see the List of Publications 3-7), and the results contributed to his PhD thesis entitled “The processes of oligomerisation in the structure of the male reproductive system in lachnids (Homoptera, Lachnidae)”. It was defended at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Silesian University, Katowice, in 1976. The dissertation was supervised by Professor Sędzimir Maciej KLIMASZEWSKI, who was Head of the Department of Systematic Zoology at that time. In his thesis the author showed that in the Lachnidae family there are no accessory glands in the male reproductive system and drew the conclusion that the Lachnidae could not have been the original group for other aphids because such structures are present in all the other families. He also pointed out that the number of testicular follicles was subject to oligomerisation in the course of evolution: it is the highest in the oldest genera and decreases in younger groups.



Fig. 1. Waclaw WOJCIECHOWSKI during the National Conference for Young Scientists “ARTHROPOD”, University of Silesia, Katowice, 2015 (Photo by M. KANTURSKI).

Professor Waclaw WOJCIECHOWSKI continued his research at the Department of Systematic Zoology (the Department of Zoology since 1980), Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, incorporating taxonomic and zoocoenotic issues into the range of his interests. During that period he published important studies on the possibilities of finding new characters in aphids using chemotaxonomic methods. The data presented in those papers proved decisive for two species to become synonymous: “The identity of *Schizolachnus pineti* (F.) and *S. obscurus* C.B. ...” and for two other species to be separated, “Biochemische Untersuchungen an den Kienlausen *Cinara mordvilkoii* (PASEK 1954) und *C. juniperi* (DE GEER 1773)...”. His publications in *Annales UMCS*, *Bulletin de l’Académie Polonaise des Sciences*, *Annales Zoologici PAS* and *Ossolineum* were well received worldwide, being cited in e.g. the monograph “Morphology and Evolution of the Insect Abdomen” by R. MATSUDA (Pergamon Press). Moreover, the results presenting structural changes in the digestive system of *Stomaphis quercus* (L.) (*Acta Biologica*) were quoted in the three-volume monograph “Aphids – their biology, natural enemies and control”, edited by MINKS & HARREWIJN and published by Elsevier (1987).

In 1992 Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI presented his habilitation thesis “Studies of the systematic system of Aphids (Homoptera, Aphidinea)”, which was the culmination of his research into aphid taxonomy. The habilitation thesis was defended at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Silesian University, and approved by the Central Qualifying Committee. The study presented a new interpretation of the phylogeny of aphids. On the basis of 12 complexes of morphological and anatomical characters (cuticular skeleton, reproductive system and digestive system), the author selected apomorphies that proved particularly useful when drawing inferences, introduced the notion of secondary apomorphy in relation to the characters resulting from reduction, and outlined the

relationships within aphids. In a subsequent monograph, Professor KLIMASZEWSKI and Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI demonstrated that Psyllomorpha and Aphidomorpha constituted two developmental lines descending from Archescytinidae. In an important monograph on the Palaearctic Pterocommatinae (Aphididae, Aphidinea, Hemiptera) (2003), Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI discussed the phylogeny of Pterocommatinae and his views on their systematic position.



Fig. 2. Waław WOJCIECHOWSKI during the field trip in the Malé Karpaty Mts., 2014 (Photo by A. HERCZEK).

In 1995 the Vice-Chancellor and Senate of the Silesian University appointed him to the post of Associate Professor, and in 1997 he was awarded the title of Professor of Biological Sciences by the President of Poland. In 2003, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor and Senate of the Silesian University, the Ministry of National Education and Sports appointed him to the post of Full Professor at the Silesian University.

Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI started his professional career at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin and continued at Silesian the University in Katowice, going through all the posts from technician to independent research worker. Between 1993 and 1995 he was acting Head of the Zoology Department, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, and in 2001 he became the Head of that Department, holding the post until 2011. During that period the Department carried out phylogenetic, taxonomic and palaeontological studies of a number of hemipteran suborders. Morphological, anatomical, histological and molecular methods were used to evaluate relationships and outline the phylogeny of insects at different taxonomic levels. Further research was also conducted on the origins of Polish fauna, the faunistic diversity of anthropogenic and paranatural habitats, and the zoogeographical and faunistic diversity of protected areas. Moreover, populations of Hemiptera and Thysanoptera and their biology were investigated, and zoocenotic (bioindicator) studies were carried out using the analysis of communities and associations of selected insect groups.

Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI has cooperated with numerous national and international centres: the Institute of Zoology, St Petersburg; the Institute of Palaeontology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; the Department of Zoology, University of Vienna; the Department of Ecology, Comenius University, Bratislava; the Museum of Earth, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Warsaw and the Institute of Zoology, PAS, Warsaw. Regular scientific contacts were also built up with the Institute of Zoology, Charles University, Prague; the Department of Biodiversity, University of Brussels; the Museum of National History, London and the Institute of Zoology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków.

Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI is a leading specialist in hemipteran taxonomy and the zoocenotic, zoogeographic and faunistic study of these sucking insects. He participated in long- and short-term study visits in the Czech Republic, Russia, Tajikistan and Great Britain. He participated in 25 scientific conferences in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland. He was awarded the Bronze (1978) and Gold (1984) Crosses of Merit, the National Education Medal (2006) and the Silver (1985) and Gold (1993) Badged of Merit of the Silesian University.

Professor Waclaw WOJCIECHOWSKI is also an eminent university teacher. He has supervised 17 doctoral dissertations; three of his research students were subsequently appointed Professors and one became an independent scientific worker while he was the Head of Department. He has reviewed 14 doctoral dissertations, recommended the approval

of ten habilitation theses and has written 13 reviews for the procedures of appointing Professors (six in Poland and seven abroad). He has reviewed and accepted numerous papers for publication. He coordinates research conducted in cooperation with the Department of Ecology, Faculty of Natural History, Comenius University, Bratislava. As a result of these studies, a monograph on the aphid fauna of Slovakia is being compiled: this will be the first work of its kind in Slovakia. Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI has been awarded 11 scientific grants, including four in cooperation with his Slovak colleagues.

His teaching includes different university activities: lectures and seminars, specialist classes and fieldwork classes. Over a hundred students have graduated from his Department in Biological Sciences.

Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI is an outstanding specialist in the entomology of sucking insects and the methodology of zoocoenotic, zoogeographic and faunistic studies. He is the author or co-author of 113 publications including 10 monographs, 77 original scientific articles, 23 popular scientific articles and 3 scripts. He has written numerous publications in cooperation with other scientific centres. His research together with colleagues from the State University in Rostov-on-Don and the State University in Dushanbe resulted in a series of publications on bioindicators in the natural environment. Following cooperation with the Museum of Natural History, London, a monograph on Pterocommatinae was published.

Professor WOJCIECHOWSKI is actively engaged in various aspects of University life. He is a member of two university committees: the committee for appointing associate professors and the disciplinary committee.

THE LIST OF PATRONYMS FOR WAŁAW WOJCIECHOWSKI

- Stomaphis (Stomaphis) wojciechowskii* DEPA, 2012 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Aphididae, Lachninae; Recent)
- Peyrierocoris (Sicardicoris) wojciechowskii* CHŁOND, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Harpactorinae; Recent)
- Rovnodicus wojciechowskii* DROHOJOWSKA & SZWEDO, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Aleyrodomorpha; Eocene (Lutetian-Priabonian), Baltic amber of Rovno, Ukraine)
- Peritropis waławii* GORCZYCA, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae; Recent)
- Flatopsis wojciechowskii* ŚWIERCZEWSKI & STROIŃSKI, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha, Flatidae; Recent)
- Capitophorus wojciechowskii* WIECZOREK & KANTURSKI, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Aphididae, Aphidinae; Recent)

Wojciechaphis andrei WEGIEREK & KANIA, 2015 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Aphidomorpha, Drepanosiphidae; Baltic amber)

Schroederella wojciechowskii WOŹNICA, 2015 (Insecta, Diptera, Heleomyzidae; Recent)

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