



Attila Haris

My interest in zoology reaches back to my early childhood. My family had a summer cottage in Fonyód, at Lake Balaton. Our little road ran directly into a big swampy area around an artificial fishing pond. The wetland habitat, just behind our house was my first hunting field. When the regular summer holidays came, we packed everything and moved to Lake Balaton. I am particularly thankful to my mother who took my hand and brought me to the nature and taught me how to recognise the

various plants and animals growing and living around us. With my friends, we were busy to collect all type of animals that we could found there: frogs, lizards and even snakes that we kept in bottles for a day or two feeding and watching them.

My particular interest to the entomology started at my age of 10 when I set up my first insect collection at the afternoon club of my elementary school. I took regular collecting trips around my native village, Kaposmérő. This general interest in entomology lasted till my second or third year in the grammar school. In that time, I collected everything but mainly moths, butterflies and beetles.

My closer relationship with sawflies started when Dr. János Szabolcs (lecturer of Keszthely University) accepted me to be his student. The title of my master thesis was the "Biology of wheat sawflies and their control". Later this topic became my Ph. D. thesis that I defended in 2000. Meantime, I participated in the research program of the Danube-Ipoly National Park where I investigated the Aculeata fauna (wild bees, chrysidid, pompilid and sphecoid wasps) of Szentendre Island, the Naszály Hill, the Western Börzsöny Mountains, the Ipoly flood plain and the Gödöllő Hills either. I am very thankful to Mr. Zsolt Józán for teaching me and checking my early identifications in bees and wasps.

During my university graduation, I slowly extended my competitiveness from the wheat sawflies to the total Symphyta fauna of Hungary. This time, I spent my summer practice at the Natural History Department of the Somogy County Museum under the supervision of Levente Ábrahám. It was a really great chance for me to practice the identification of sawflies by using the microscope of the natural history department. As a refund, I donated my sawflies to the museum and slowly started to copy the most relevant papers and identification keys on sawflies as much as I could financially afford. Sometimes, I even visited the Budapest Museum and loaned some identified sawflies for comparison. As a result of my limited possibilities my early papers were full of old and outdated names, but anyhow, it started.

Professor Gyula Sáringér offered me a Ph.D. grant therefore my first study trips were partly sponsored. So, I had chance to visit the collections of the natural history museums of London, Paris, Copenhagen, Berlin, Eberswalde and München. I slowly extended my knowledge to the whole Palaearctic and Oriental Tenthredinidae fauna and even a little bit to the Nearctic sawflies as well. In 2000, I published my study on the Oriental sawflies of the Natural History Museum, London. In 2003, I studied and identified the Nematinae collection of the Stockholm Natural History Museum, in 2004, the Oriental sawflies of the Madrid Museum, and in 2005, I worked for the Amsterdam Museum

either under the grant of the Synthesis fellowship project. These studies resulted approximately 200 new sawfly species, mainly from the East-Palaeartic and Oriental regions. As a volunteer I set up and identified the Hungarian and exotic Dolerinae, Nematinae and the exotic (orbis terrarum) Tenthredo collection of the Budapest Museum. In cooperation with Dr. Lajos Zombori (curator of Hymenoptera and assistant director of the Budapest Natural History Museum) I participated in the research programs of the museum by elaborating the Nematinae and Dolerinae sawflies of various Hungarian national parks and joined to the research programs of the Somogy County Museum, Kaposvár (organised by Dr. Levente Ábrahám) as well by collecting and identifying the sawflies of the various regions of Somogy county. In February of 2007, I received an e-mail from my co-author offering me to compile the check-list of Symphyta of the Carpathian Basin. After a short personal meeting we agreed in the conception of the present work and with big enthusiasm and leaving everything others (including my civil job), I started to collect data of sawflies from all part of the Carpathian Basin particularly from my two favourite areas Subcarpathia and Transylvania.

List of the most important works of Attila Haris except those on Symphyta of the Carpathian Basin.

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