



## **In Memoriam: Coleopterist Dipl. Ing. Walter Heinz (1925–2023)**

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## OBITUARY

## In Memoriam: Coleopterist Dipl. Ing. WALTER HEINZ (1925–2023)

WOLFGANG SCHAWALLER

WALTER HEINZ was born on August 8, 1925 in Ludwigs-hafen. He spent his childhood in Frankfurt am Main, where he went to the Holzhausenschule primary school from 1931 and to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gymnasium from 1935, obtaining his final diploma (Abitur) in 1942. Already in these younger years he was fascinated by entomology, started collecting Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, and regularly visited the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt. In his leisure time he joined a civil gliding group, receiving his pilot's license. From 1943, during the Second World War, WALTER was a transport pilot in the air force. His first entomological collections, kept in the home of his parents, were destroyed during that time.

From November 1945 he studied at the Technical University of Darmstadt, with a focus on construction and statics, and received his engineering diploma in 1950. After that, he joined an engineering company in Mainz and later managed its branch in Mannheim. WALTER married ORTRUD GÖPELT (\*June 1935) in 1953. Together they built a house in Wilhelmsfeld, near Heidelberg, and about ten years later they built a larger one in Wald-Michelbach (Odenwald). They had six children: ULRICH (\*1955), URSULA (\*1957), HANNELORE (\*1959), DIETRICH (\*1961), GISELA (\*1964) and GUDRUN (\*1972). WALTER loved classical music and learned the piano already during his school years; all of his children received an education with musical instruments, and the sounds of a flute, violin, guitar or piano could always be heard from the various rooms of the house. In 1994, once their children had all left home, the couple decided to move into a smaller house in Schwanfeld, near Schweinfurt.

WALTER HEINZ collected beetles outside of Europe for the first time in 1971, when he drove to Turkey with the whole family. In the following years they reached also Iran by car, with a focus on *Carabus* Linnaeus. In 1979 came his first travels by plane, to the Himalayas of northern Pakistan, with his indestructible wife, and from 1990 to Mexico, to collect *Calosoma* Weber. In the winter of 1996/1997 they travelled for the first time to Africa (Kenya, South Africa) to hunt species of *Anthia* Weber. The first visit by the HEINZ couple to Argentina and Chile, in search of *Ceroglossus* Solier, was conducted in 1998. On all these travels, WALTER drove rental cars over long distances and on difficult routes, whereas ORTRUD has no

driver's license. The last travels led WALTER and ORTRUD to Georgia in the Caucasus, in the summers of 2018 and 2019, where they travelled with local driver and guide NIKA (known also to other entomologists). By that time, WALTER was already 94 years old, ORTRUD 84, and they had collected beetles for almost 70 years. In several publications, ORTRUD offered vivid recollections of their joint travel adventures (see Publications of ORTRUD HEINZ, below).

WALTER's favourite collecting method was to set ground traps with a mixture of red wine and vinegar, always with the indefatigable support of his wife. Unfortunately, the pair did not practise sifting. They collected not only Carabidae but also several other insect and arachnid groups, for example Opiliones. He presented them to other scientists, not only in the hope of getting carabids in exchange, but to generously support other colleagues. So the present author regularly received the collected Tenebrionidae.

WALTER had never studied biology, but he attended some zoology lectures at university in Frankfurt. He had an extensive knowledge of biological relations and ecological features. Before every travel he searched on maps and in other files for isolated forest remnants and other interesting habitats, for example in Turkey as well as in Chile, where he hoped to find particular taxa. He also tried to collect at the type localities of particular carabids. And he bought a strong and large vehicle (a modified Unimog) at the beginning of his collecting activities, to reach remote and off-road habitats together with his family. After persistent and courageous fighting with local authorities, WALTER even reached restricted areas in northern Pakistan or in Nagorny Karabach in the Caucasus. We once spoke about a visit to St. Helena, a remote island in the southern Atlantic Ocean with a highly endemic fauna and flora. The island can be reached by ship from South Africa, but the connection is quite insecure and dependent on weather conditions. In the end, WALTER renounced this plan, because the risk of staying stuck for weeks on St. Helena was too high.

The author first met WALTER HEINZ and his wife ORTRUD in 1978 during the German Coleoptera Meeting in Ludwigsburg and then regularly at these annual meetings, now held in Beutelsbach. Their last presence at the Beutelsbach meeting was in 2019. The meeting was



**Fig. 1.** WALTER HEINZ in 1984 (right) during the Coleoptera Meeting in Ludwigsburg, together with German writer ERNST JÜNGER. (Photo by unknown author)

cancelled the following two years because of COVID-19 restrictions. After our first meeting, I immediately recognised the couple as highly engaged coleopterists and tough collectors. I visited them for the first time in their home in Wald-Michelbach 1984, and admired their collection. Subsequently, I enjoyed their hospitality several times in Schwanfeld, when organising the transfer of their collection to the natural history museum in Stuttgart.

The outstanding carabid collection of WALTER HEINZ is arranged in 220 large and 400 small drawers, and contains about 150,000 specimens, all accurately prepared and labelled and sorted both systematically and geographically. The collection was transferred to the Staatliches Museum in Stuttgart in 2007–2010 in four parts, with the support of funds from the “Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Naturkundemuseums”. Subsequently, HEINZ delivered several additional drawers and unprepared material as an “addendum”, which consisted not only of Carabidae. Duplicates were also delivered to the natural history museum of Erfurt, Germany. The collection contains all

groups of Carabidae from the world over, with only the cavernicolous Trechinae less represented. HEINZ loaned his newly collected specimens to international taxonomists for study and publication; therefore, the collection is full of the type material of taxa described several authors, besides that resulting from his own studies (see Publications of WALTER HEINZ, below). And he always engaged with others to enlarge the collection through exchanges. Even in his last few years, when he was no longer able to travel, WALTER established new contacts with coleopterologists for the exchange of carabids from Central Asia.

WALTER and ORTRUD were passionate travellers interested not only in beetles but also in history, geography, languages and the general ways of life in the visited countries. In particular, WALTER studied the origin of the Farsi, Turkish and Arabic languages, supported by his daughter URSULA, who married in Iran. Besides collection work, WALTER also spent a lot of time reading the entomological literature. He preferred a simple life and was as much as possible a self-supplier. Until recently the couple culti-

vated vegetables in their garden, and in their earlier years in Wald-Michelbach they even kept sheep. In winter the heating was kept low, and during travels they prepared simple meals for themselves, avoiding restaurants. He was always hard on himself, at home and on his travels, but sometimes also on others.

In the final weeks of last year, WALTER's heart lost its power bit by bit and he died peacefully after a fulfilled life of 97 years on January 3, 2023, with his wife by his side in their Schwanfeld house. WALTER leaves behind not only his wife ORTRUD and their large family, but also a large international community of coleopterists. His carabid collection remains as his monument.

### Acknowledgements

ORTRUD HEINZ kindly supplied various information. I also thank JÖRG GEBERT (Dresden) and Dr. PEER SCHNITZER (Halle) for some hints. DANIEL WHITMORE (Stuttgart) improved the English.

### List of collecting travels of ORTRUD and WALTER HEINZ

1952–1970	France, Pyrenees, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Canary Islands (multiple times)
Spring 1971	Macedonia, Greece
Summer 1971	Bulgaria, southern Turkey
Spring 1972	Macedonia, Greece
Summer 1972	Northern and north-eastern Turkey, Iran
Spring 1973	Central and southern Turkey
Summer 1973	Macedonia, northern and north-eastern Turkey, Bulgaria
Spring 1974	Northern and central Turkey
Summer 1974	Southern and south-eastern Turkey
Summer 1975	Turkey, Iran
Spring 1976	Greece, Turkey
Summer 1976	Greece, Turkey, Iran
Spring 1977	Greece, Turkey
Spring 1978	Macedonia, western and central Turkey, Syria
Summer 1978	Macedonia, northern and north-eastern Turkey
Winter 1979	Gran Canaria
Spring 1979	Greece, northern Turkey
Summer 1979	Pakistan (Himalaya)
Spring 1980	Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria



**Fig. 2.** WALTER HEINZ collecting in remote areas of Iran with his off-road vehicle in 1976, together with his family. (Photo by HEINZ family, reproduced with permission)

Summer 1980	Kashmir (Himalayas)	Spring 1988	Turkey, Syria
Autumn 1980	Austria (Styria), Slovenia, Croatia	Summer 1988	Pakistan (Kashmir)
Spring 1981	Greece, western and eastern Turkey	Spring 1989	Turkey
Summer 1981	Pakistan (Himalayas)	Summer 1989	India, Pakistan (Kashmir)
Autumn 1981	Austria (Styria, Carinthia), Slovenia	Spring 1990	Greece, Turkey
Spring 1982	Turkey, Syria	Summer 1990	USA (Arizona), Mexico
Summer 1982	Pakistan (Dir, Chitral)	Spring 1991	Sicily, North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco), southern and northern Spain
Autumn 1982	Eastern Alps	Summer 1991	Mexico
Spring 1983	Turkey	Spring 1992	South Italy, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria
Summer 1983	North-eastern Turkey	Summer 1992	Turkey, Bulgaria
Autumn 1983	Alps (Austria, Italy, Switzerland)	Spring 1993	Greece, Albania, Bulgaria
Spring 1984	Greece (islands), Turkey	Summer 1993	China (Tibet, Gansu)
Summer 1984	Northern and north-eastern Turkey	Summer 1994	China (Gansu, Sichuan)
Autumn 1984	Alps (Italy, Switzerland)	Spring 1995	Israel
Spring 1985	Israel	Summer 1995	China (Sichuan, Tibet)
Summer 1985	Greece, north-eastern Turkey	Winter 1996	Kenya
Autumn 1985	Alps (Switzerland, France)	Spring 1996	Turkey, Iran, Greece
Winter 1985	Gomera, Tenerife, Gran Canaria	Summer 1996	China (Sichuan, Tibet)
Spring 1986	Turkey	Autumn 1996	France (Chartreuse)
Summer 1986	Northern and north-eastern Poland; Pakistan and India (Himalayas)	Spring 1997	Lebanon
Autumn 1986	France (Alps, Massif Central), Austria	Summer 1997	Pakistan (Azad Kashmir, Gilgit)
Winter 1986/1987	Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, La Palma	Autumn 1997	France (western Alps)
Spring 1987	Israel	Winter 1997/1998	South Africa, Namibia
Summer 1987	Turkey	Spring 1998	Jordan
Autumn 1987	Alps (Switzerland, France)	Summer 1998	Turkey, Iran, Greece
Winter 1987	Southern Spain, Morocco	Winter 1998/1999	Chile, Argentina
		Spring 1999	Lebanon



**Fig. 3.** WALTER HEINZ together with his wife ORTRUD in 1995, in the high altitudes of the Tibetan Plateau. (Photo by HEINZ family, reproduced with permission)

Summer 1999	Iran
Autumn 1999	Western Alps (Switzerland, France)
Winter 1999/2000	Chile
Spring 2000	Hungary
Summer 2000	Mexico
Winter 2001	Chile
Summer 2001	Pakistan (Chitral, Dir)
Winter 2001	South Africa, Botswana, Namibia
Summer 2002	USA (Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, California)
Winter 2003	Namibia, South Africa
Summer 2003	Pakistan (Himalayas)
Autumn 2003	Lebanon
Winter 2004	Malawi
Summer 2004	Greece, India (Kashmir)
Autumn 2004	Syria
Winter 2005	Bolivia, Chile
Summer 2005	Greece, Turkey, Italy (Tuscany)
Winter 2005	Morocco
Spring 2006	Iran
Summer 2006	Slovakia, Ukraine
Winter 2006/2007	Chile, Argentina
Summer 2007	China (Sichuan)
Winter 2008	Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, South Africa
Summer 2008	Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Poland
Winter 2008/2009	Chile, Argentina, Tierra del Fuego
Summer 2009	Mexico
Winter 2009/2010	Namibia, South Africa
Summer 2010	Mexico
Summer 2011	Mexico
Winter 2012	Namibia, South Africa, Botswana
Summer 2012	Mexico
Summer 2013	Georgia
Winter 2014	South Africa, Namibia
Spring 2014	Iran (Kordestan, Ilam, Azarbaijan)
Spring 2015	South Africa, Zambia
Summer 2015	Armenia
Summer 2016	Georgia
Spring 2017	Crete
Summer 2017	Armenia, Georgia
Winter 2017/2018	Namibia, South Africa
Summer 2018	Georgia
Summer 2019	Georgia

#### Taxa dedicated to WALTER and/or ORTRUD HEINZ

*Cicindela ismenia walterheinzi* Franzen – *Carabus heinzi* Breuning – *Ceroglossus darwini heinzi* Jaffrézic & Rataj – *Ceroglossus magellanicus ortrudheinzae* Heinz & Jiroux – *Nebria heinzi* Jedlička – *Nebria pharina walteriana* Ledoux & Roux – *Leistus heinzi* Farkač – *Bembidion heinzi* Korge – *Trechus heinzi* Pawlowski – *Duvalius heinzi* Casale & Giachino – *Deltomerus heinzi* Zamotajlov – *Amara walterheinzi* Hieke – *Zabrus heinzi* Jedlička – *Amolopsa heinzi* Straneo – *Pterostichus (Haplomaseus) heinzi* Jedlička – *Pterostichus sousae heinzi* Kirschenhofer – *Tapinopterus heinzi* Straneo – *Calathus heinzi* Jedlička – *Sphodropsis heinzi* Casale – *Lae-mosthenus heinzi* Casale – *Ophonus heinzi* Wrase – *Bradycellus heinzi* Jäger – *Cymindis (Tarulus) heinzi* Jedlička – *Otiorhynchus heinzianus* Braun – *Otiorhynchus heinzi* Smreczynski – *Otiorhynchus heinzorum* Braun – *Otiorhynchus ortrudheinzi* Braun – *Sphingorhinotus ortrudheinzae* Braun – *Lathrotiorhynchus heinzi* Braun – *Chilotrogus heinzi* Keith – *Panotrogus heinzi* Keith – *Cerambyx heinzianus* Demelt – *Mallosia heinzo-*



**Fig. 4.** WALTER HEINZ in 2005, checking ground traps in *Nothofagus* forests in Chile. (Photo by HEINZ family, reproduced with permission)

*rum* Holzschuh – *Dorcadion heinzi* Breuning – *Dorcadion heinzorum* Braun – *Dorcadion walteri* Holzschuh – *Dorcadion ortrudae* Braun – *Dorcadion ortrudheinzae* Danilevsky – *Pakapsidia heinzi* Wittmer – *Ocypus heinzi* Smetana – *Lathrobium heinzi* Korge – *Heinzia variabilis* Korge – *Quedius walteri* Korge – *Quedius heinzi* Korge – *Quedius ortrudae* Korge – *Scopaeus heinzi* Korge – *Stenus heinzianus* Puthz – *Dianous heinzi* Korge – *Laena heinzi* Schawaller – *Rybinskiella heinzi* Frank – *Apteroloma heinzi* Schawaller – *Smaragdina viridana heinzi* Erber & Medvedev – *Labidostomis heinzi* Lopatin – *Tenthredo heinzi* Muche – *Aeolothrips heinzi* zur Strassen – *Kashmirobros-cus ortrudae* Schmidt, Wrase & Skiacy.

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