



## In Memoriam: Uwe H. Humpesch

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Our mutual friend and colleague passed away on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2014, just a few days after the end of an exclusive tutorial on mayfly identification which we had held together at the Vienna University. The urn containing his ashes was buried in the Central Cemetery of Vienna on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

From 1953 to 1961 Uwe H. Humpesch had attended the monastic Gymnasium at Melk near the banks of the River Danube where he returned after his magisterial degree and worked for a short time as teacher for biology.



Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Uwe H. Humpesch

17. 3. 1943 – 17. 7. 2014

In 1968 he attended the 4th International Plecoptera Symposium in Abisko (Sweden) and subsequently the international conferences on Ephemeroptera in Kraków (1975) and Bechyně (1983), as well as the joint conferences on Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera in Granada (1989), Lausanne (1995) and Montana (2004). In 1971 he finished his studies in zoology at the University of Vienna with his dissertation on the developmental cycle of *Baetis rhodani* under the supervision of University Professor Dr. Gertrud Pleskot (1913–1978) and by invitation joined the team of the Limnological Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). His main

scientific interests were focussed on ecological aspects of benthic freshwater organisms, especially Ephemeroptera larvae and their development. In 1973 he became a member of the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) and was a frequent visitor to the Windermere laboratory, where he worked on Ephemeroptera with the late Dr. T.T. Macan and Prof. J.M. Elliott, with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship. In 1982 he qualified as a professor for 'Zoology with special emphasis on limnology'. His interest in large rivers led to an involvement in the development of the "Österreichisches Nationalkomitee - Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauforschung" (ÖN-IAD) and subsequently in the extremely successful project 'Ökosystemstudie Donaustau Altenwörth' within the 'Man and the Biosphere' UNESCO programme. He was also a member of the 'Ecology Commission of the Federal Government' for different aspects of water quality in the River Danube. His outstanding scientific merits have been honoured with numerous awards, among them the 'Preis des Theodor Körner Stiftungsfonds', the 'Reinhard Liepolt Preis für Donauforschung' and the 'Goldenes Ehrenzeichen für Verdienste um die Republik Österreich' [order of merit for services rendered to the Republic of Austria]. From 1984 until his retirement in 2008 he was a member (labour representative) of the work council of ÖAW. In 2009, he was elected an Honorary Member of the FBA.

The list of his publications (see below) adequately illustrates his vivid and diverse scientific interests. His friends and students know his lifelong commitment and wholehearted dedication to academic teaching, devoted as he was, to the unrestricted encouragement of all his numerous pupils. He was a true friend and an exemplary teacher to the last.

### U.H. Humpesch's publications

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### Academic teaching at Vienna University – University lectures & excursions

- Methodik limnologischer Untersuchungen; Privatissimum für Dissertanten und Diplomanden
- Einführung in die Benützung apparativer Einrichtungen im Arbeitsbereich Limnologie; für Dissertanten und Diplomanden
- Limnologisches Seminar (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Gernot Bretschko, Dan Luca Danielopol, Martin Dokulil, Alois Herzig, Georg Janauer, Roland Schmidt, Johann Waringer, Andreas Chovanec, Heinz Löffler)
- Quantitative Süßwasserökologie (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Michael Schagerl, Christian Fesl, Hubert Keckeis, Martin Dokulil, Peter Peduzzi)
- Zur quantitativen Ökologie einheimischer Fische
- Zur Ökologie der Fließgewässer: Fluß-Stau-Au
- Interdisziplinäre Projektstudie "Ökologie großer Fließgewässer"
- Projektpraktikum: Energie-, Nährstoffflüsse und Biodiversität eines großen Fließgewässers, am Beispiel der Donau im Wiener Raum
- Projektpraktikum: Gewässergüte und Wasserrahmenrichtlinie (unter Mitwirkung von Univ. Prof. Matsché, Doz. Farnleitner, Mag. Dr. Kreuzinger und Dr. Kavka)
- Biologie und quantitative Ökologie einheimischer Süßwasserevertebraten (Ausgewählte Gruppen)
- Biologie und quantitative Ökologie einheimischer Wasserinsekten
- Angewandte Fließgewässerökologie: Übungen zur Bestimmung der Gewässergüte (für Fortgeschrittene)
- Spezialpraktikum Ephemeroptera: Anleitung zur Bestimmung für Fortgeschrittene – 2004, 2010 (mit Ernst Bauernfeind)
- Taxonomie und Systematik der Eintagsfliegen Zentraleuropas - Larven und Imagines – 2014 (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Ernst Bauernfeind, Martin Schletterer)
- Zur Ökologie einheimischer Fische der Forellenregion (Entwicklung, Wachstum, Populationsregulation)
- Ökologie großer Fließgewässer: Exkursion Rhein (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Georg Janauer, Martin Dokulil) – 1998
- Limnologische Auslandsexkursion Tagliamento (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Hubert Keckeis, Friedrich Böck) – 2001
- Limnologische Auslandsexkursion Donaudelta (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Friedrich Böck) – 2002 + 2005
- Limnologische Auslandsexkursion Ungarn (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Georg Janauer) – 2003
- Limnologische Auslandsexkursion China (mit Friedrich Schiemer, Georg Janauer, Martin Dokulil, Alois Herzig) – 2004