

Horst Kippenberg: The Senior Chrysomelidologist in Central Europe

Elisabeth Geiser (Salzburg, Austria)

Central Europe is the region with the highest density of Entomologists. In contrast, the density of Chrysomelidae species is there much lower than in many other regions. This situation results in very useful identification keys for

central European insects. The most important key for Coleoptera is the series "Freude-Harde-Lohse: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas", which started in 1964. In the following 20 years, keys for each beetle family were published in 11 volumes. Then the early published keys were outdated in many aspects and it was necessary to publish corrections and improvements. This process still goes on.

It needs deep knowledge of the objects and meticulous work to create a useful identification key. These keys are a basic tool for all aspects of biological science, especially in entomology. The most sophisticated experiments and analyses will be useless if your identification of the species you examine is wrong. Unlike than with articles on results of experiments, with elaborated identification keys of high quality, the author cannot increase his impact factors. Therefore the coleopterologist community should be very grateful to their colleagues who undertake this hard task which we need for our own work. One of these authors is Horst Kippenberg who created a great part of the improved keys on the Chrysomelidae of Central Europe.

Horst Kippenberg was born on 6th November 1937 in Berlin. Because of wartime circumstances he was moved to Calbe/Saale, a small town in Saxony-Anhalt. As a 12-year old schoolboy he was sent with his classmates to collect the Colorado beetle *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* on the potato fields. This species was an ordinary pest which needed to be annihilated, but H. Kippenberg found a colourful Carabidae (*Calosoma auropunctatum*), too.

This specimen initiated his beetle collection.

In 1952 his family moved to Erlangen (Bavaria) and young Horst was still collecting beetles and identifying them with the "Reitter", the most comprehensive key to central

European beetles at this time. Because he could not identify a specimen of waterbeetles (it was a female *Dytiscus marginalis* - Dytiscidae without the characteristic stripes) he inquired at the University of Erlangen. He was told the name of this specimen and – even more important for him - the name of an experienced coleopterologist in the nearby town of



Fig. 1. Horst Kippenberg (Photo: Theo Michael Schmitt).

Fürth, Johann Hardörfer, who immediately supported this interested pupil and became his mentor and friend. Some years later H. Kippenberg returned again to the University, but now to study physics at Erlangen and at Innsbruck (Austria: Tyrol), where he soon met the tyrolian coleopterologists. This was the start of some lifelong friendships with them, especially with Manfred Kahlen, a partner of many wonderful and exciting coleopterological excursions. In 1970 he graduated with a Ph.D. in physics. Then he returned to Erlangen and was employed in industry for material engineering and product development until he retired in 1997.

After collecting seriously for a while, every coleopterologist realizes that he needs to specialize on some taxa. The first choice for H. Kippenberg were the Curculionidae which lead to mail contact and later friendship with the Curculionidae expert, Lothar Dieckmann.

Fortunately, collecting Curculionidae requires examining plants meticulously. During a field trip in Chiemgau, Bavaria, H. Kippenberg collected blue leaf beetles. At home he started to identify them and found that this was very difficult. He didn't give up until he

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could identify each specimen including the female. It took him three years to be successful! These were five sympatric living species of *Oreina*. During this period, H. Kippenberg became an expert of this genus.

Then the head of the coleopterological department of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich, Heinz Freude, realized that this young chap visiting the collection sometimes was able to identify *Oreina* and published his name as “Expert on Chrysomelidae” in a list of German coleopterologists. H. Kippenberg was shocked at first, but H. Freude said to him “You can identify the most difficult genus, therefore the other chrysomelids will be easy for you!”

Every chrysomelid specialist knows (and H. Freude was a specialist of Carabidae) that there are many more genera that are very difficult to identify, mostly in the Alticinae. Fortunately another young German chrysomelid specialist appeared, Manfred Döberl, who focussed on Alticinae. Therefore H. Kippenberg accepted to become a central European chrysomelid expert - exclusively of Alticinae. Later on his interests spread to the subfamily Chrysomelinae of the Palaearctic region, too.

An entomologist needs colleagues for exchange of specimens, knowledge, literature, hints for field trips and to enjoy talking with others who have the same interests. Therefore several meetings and congresses are organized on regional, national and international level. Some of them are kept as holy as Christmas in the private schedule. For European coleopterologists, this is the annual meeting in Beutelsbach near Stuttgart (Theo Schmitt reports regularly about the chrysomelid group established there). H. Kippenberg visits these meetings regularly. All pictures shown there are from the Beutelsbach meetings.

Before 1989, due to the political situation in eastern Europe, it was difficult to be in contact with colleagues of communist countries. Mail contact was suspicious (for the intelligence agencies even entomological articles seemed full of secret hints coded in strange words) and most of the eastern colleagues were not allowed to visit western parts of Europe. But western inhabitants were allowed to visit the communist countries if they spent a

lot of money each day. For scientific work on insects, especially in the topics of faunistics and systematics, it is essential to exchange knowledge and specimens and to work together on a broader geographical scale. This works by best with direct contact with colleagues of the other countries. Therefore in 1966 a very special scientific congress was established, the Symposium Internationale Entomofaunisticum Europae Centralis (SIEEC) which took place every two or three years in a town in one of the communist countries. There the specialists from the whole of Europe could meet each other. For the western visitors it was also very interesting to see the huge differences between the communist countries. Perhaps the most

remarkable event was the congress in Budapest, August 1983, with 300 participants. H. Kippenberg met famous experts as Zoltán Kaszab and Igor Lopatin and also his friend Andrzej Warchalowski from Wrocław (Breslau, Poland), whom he joined on several impressive field trips in the Karpathian mountains. Since the Iron Curtain was removed, the two friends now meet regularly in



Fig. 2. Horst Kippenberg (standing) in heavy discussion with Manfred Döberl (right). Andrzej Warchalowski (left) is contemplating over their arguments (Photo: Michael Schmitt).

Beutelsbach.

Another important meeting for the international chrysomelid community was started in Hamburg (Germany) in 1984, during the 17th International Congress of Entomology. H. Kippenberg was one of the organizers of this first Symposium on Chrysomelidae which now regularly takes place associated with the ICE or another international congress. This congress was the starting point for a still growing global network comprising many colleagues. With the years it resulted in personal or at least mailing contacts with nearly all European and many international Chrysomelidean experts. Without their help studies often could not have been carried out.

Coleopterologists also have a private life, but this is heavily contaminated with entomological activity. H. Kippenberg married in 1971 and even during the journey following it a coleopterological meeting took place – visiting Sandro Ruffo and his assistant Mauro Daccordi in Verona. For holidays the Kippenbergs headed to mountain regions in central and south Europe which were nice surroundings for the family and interesting collection sites for *Oreina*.

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As can be seen from the literature list, H. Kippenberg always does the sometimes boring, scrutinizing, but so necessary work to solve problems which affect every scientist who works with these species. It is much easier to become famous with articles on experiments in an expensive laboratory even if such works are out-dated ten years later. The results of the papers of H. Kippenberg are useful for decades, never out-dated. The work of the (not only European) Chrysomelidologists could not reach such high quality if we hadn't the useful articles and keys for some of the most difficult species – elaborated by Horst Kippenberg.

Thanks to Theo Michael Schmitt who supported the author with the pictures from the Beutelsbach meetings.



Fig. 3. Horst Kippenberg examines *Chrysomelidae* specimens attentively watched by Ron Beenen.

DEDICATION OF BEETLE NAMES

Chrysomelidae:

Ambrostoma kippenbergi Daccordi & Ge, 2012: 341-342

Chrysolina kippenbergi Lopatin, 2008: 833

Diacantha kippenbergi Beenen, 2014: 83-86 (Entom. Blätter Col. 110)

Longitarsus kippenbergi Warchalowski, 1998: 351-354

Mandarella kippenbergi Döberl, 2016: 35-36 (Entom. Blätter Col. 111)

Odonteon kippenbergi Daccordi & Ge, 2013: 210-211

Curculionidae:

Acalles kippenbergi Dieckmann, 1982: 208-209

Hypera (Kippenbergia) Alonso-Zarazaga, 2005

Plinthus kippenbergi Meregalli, 1985: 81-82

Other beetles:

Formicomus kippenbergi Uhmann, 1978: 81-83 (Coleoptera: Anthicidae)

Scydmarophes kippenbergi Castellini, 1987: 119 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

NAMES OF NEW TAXA DESCRIPTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Cryptocephalus messutati, 2011

Cyrtanastes (Natocyrstes), 2010

Chrysolina (Bourdonneana), 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Colaphoptera) purpurascens muelleri, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Chalcoidea) janbechynei murciana, 2012

Chrysolina (Chalcoidea) waldheimi, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Chrysocrosita) sulcicollis przewalskyana, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Gnathomela) igorlopatini, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Jeanclaudia) neotibialis, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Lopatinica), 2012

Chrysolina (Lopatinica) adzharica excavata, 2012

Chrysolina (Lopatinica) adzharica heinzi, 2012

Chrysolina (Lopatinica) boluensis, 2012

Chrysolina (Lopatinica) curvata, 2012

Chrysolina (Lopatinica) daccordiana, 2012

Chrysolina (Semenowia) freyensis, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Chrysolina (Sphaerochrysolina), 2010

Chrysolina (Taeniossticha) petitpierrei, 2004

Chrysolina (Cyrtochrysolina), 1994

Chrysolina, species incertae sedis: redtenbacheri, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Donacia (Arundonacia), 2015

Donacia (Askevoldia), 1994

Donacia (Brevidonacia), 2015

Donacia (Crassodonacia), 2015

Donacia (Extradonacia), 2015

Donacia (Flavodonacia), 2015

Donacia (Glabrodonacia), 2015

Donacia (Mergodonacia), 2015

Donacia (Smaragdonia), 2015

Donacia (Sotaiana), 2015

Gastrophysina 2010, *subtribus nov.*

Gonioctena (Brachyphytodecta) guangxiae, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Gonioctena (Brachyphytodecta) melanotus, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Gonioctena (Gonioctena) flavicornis borealicola, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota litoralis, 2001

Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota nana, 2001

Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota nanula, 2010, *nom. nov.*

Gonioctena (Spartoxena) pseudogobanzi, 2001

Oreina (Protorina) ludovicae cantabricola, 2008

Oreina (Protorina) melancholica visoi, 2008

Oreina (Protorina) retenta tatrica, 2008

Pachybrachys seidenstueckeri, 1974 (*P. mardinensis* WEISE)

CURCULIONIDAE

Hypera carinicollis bulgarica, 1986

Hypera carinicollis septentrionalis, 1986

Hypera pandellei intermedia, 1983

Plinthus parreyssi purkynei, 1981 (*P. squalidus purkynei*)

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- 1966 *Donacia springeri* MÜLL. in Nordtirol – Entomologische Blätter 63: 48-49
- 1974 *Pachybrachis seidenstueckeri*, eine neue Art aus Kleinasien – Entomologische Blätter 70: 47-50
- 1975 1. Beitrag zur Kenntnis des Genus *Chrysochloa* HOPE (Insecta, Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) – Berichte des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins Innsbruck 62: 71-82
- 1981 Die mitteleuropäischen Arten der Gattung *Plinthus* GERM. – Entomologische Blätter 76: 73-140
- 1981 Familie Curculionidae (Einführung, Brachycerinae, Tanymecinae, Leptopiinae) in: FREUDE-HARDE-LOHSE: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas, Band 10: 102-111, 183, 273-279
- 1982 Nachtrag zur Revision der mitteleuropäischen Arten der Gattung *Plinthus* – Entomologische Blätter 78: 98-100
- 1983 Familie Curculionidae (Hylobiinae, Rhytirrhinae, Cryptorhynchinae) in: FREUDE-HARDE-LOHSE: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas, Band 11: 121-157, 159-171
- 1983 Fraßpflanzen von *Oreina speciosissima* SCOP. (Col., Chrysomelidae) – Verhandlungen des 10. Internationalen Symposiums für Entomofaunistik in Mitteleuropa (SIEEC), 81-82
- 1985 Observations on *Oreina* Subgenus *Protorina* in the Alps – Entomography 3: 433-435
- 1986 Revision der *Hypera carinicollis*-Verwandschaft – Entomologische Blätter 82: 21-43
- 1994 Fraßpflanzen divergenzen bei Chrysomeliden und Curculioniden (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae) – Verhandlungen des 14. Internationalen Symposiums für Entomofaunistik in Mitteleuropa (SIEEC), 272-275
- 1994 Familie Chrysomelidae (ohne Alticinae) in: LOHSE-LUCHT: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas (3. Supplementband), Band 14: 17-92, 271
- 1999 Familie Chrysomelidae (ohne Alticinae) in: LUCHT-KLAUSNITZER: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas (4. Supplementband), Band 15: 313-324
- 1999 Einfügung von *Cassida leucanthemi* BORDY in den Bestimmungsschlüssel von FHL 9 (Col., Chrys.) – Entomologische Blätter 95: 207-298
- 2001: Neuordnung der *Gonioctena variabilis* - Gruppe (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) – Entomol. Blätter 97: 13-34.
- 2003 *Chrysolina atrovirens* (FRIVALDSZKY) - minckwitzi (APFELBECK) (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) – Entomologische Blätter 98: 179-183.
- 2003: Was ist *Chrysomela menthae* SCHRANK (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) – Entomologische Blätter 98: 185-188.
- 2003 Rote Liste gefährdeter Blatt- und Samenkäfer (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae et Bruchidae) Bayerns: 154-160
- 2004: *Chrysolina (Taeniosticha) petitpierrei* n. sp. aus den Pyrenäen (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) – Entomologische Blätter 100: 19-22.
- 2004 Diversity of aedeagus shape in Slovenian populations of *Chrysolina purpurascens* (GERMAR) (Chrysomelinae) – New Developments in the biology of Chrysomelidae 659-665
- 2005 Über die Vielfalt von *Chrysolina purpurascens*-Formen in Slowenien (Col.: Chrys.) – Acta entomologica Slovenica 13: 59-62
- 2008 Revision der Untergattung *Protorina* WEISE der Gattung *Oreina* CHEVROLAT (Col: Chrys: Chrys.) (Col: Chrys: Chrys.) – Koleopterologische Rundschau 78: 367-418
- 2010 Beitrag zur Kenntnis von *Donacia delagrangaei* PIC und *D. kraatzi* WEISE (Col: Chrys: Don.) – Koleopterologische Rundschau 80: 183-188
- 2010 Chrysomelinae in: LÖBL & SMETANA: Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera 6: 67-73, 390-443
- 2011 *Cryptocephalus messutati* sp. nov. aus der Türkei (Col., Chrys.) – Mitteilungen des internationalen entomologischen Vereins Frankfurt 36: 43-49
- 2012 Überprüfung der ehemals zur Untergattung *Colaphoptera* MOTSCHULSKY gerechneten *Chrysolina*-Arten Europas (Col., Chrys.), Teil I: Untergattungen – Entomologische Blätter und Coleoptera 108: 141-150
- 2012 Eine neue Unterart der iberischen Blattkäferart *Chrysolina (Chalcoidea) janbechynei murciana* (COBOS) – Mitteilungen des internationalen entomologischen Vereins Frankfurt 37: 57-61
- 2012 *Lopatinica* subg.n., eine neue Untergattung von *Chrysolina* MOTSCH. aus dem Kaukasus und der Türkei (Col.: Chrys.) – Koleopt. Rundschau 82: 317-337
- 2015 Strukturierung von artenreichen Chrysomelidae-Gattungen, am Beispiel der Gattung *Donacia Fabricius (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)*. – *Koleopterologische Rundschau* 85: 249–282
- 2003 SPRICK, P., KIPPENBERG, H., SCHMIDL, J. & BEHNE, L.: Rote Liste der gefährdeten Rüsselkäfer (Curculionidae) Bayerns: 161-171
- 2004 PETITPIERRE, E., KIPPENBERG, H., MIKHAILOV, Y. & BOURDONNÉ, J.-C.: Karyology and Cytotaxonomy of the Genus *Chrysolina* MOTSCHULSKY (Col., Chrys.) – Zoologischer Anzeiger 242: 347-352
- 2006 KIPPENBERG, H. & LEBENBAUER, T.: Der Bergblattkäfer *Oreina (Protorina) retenta* (WEISE, 1894) kein Phantom sondern ein Steirischer Endemit! – Koleopterologische Rundschau 76: 383-387
- 2008 REIßMANN, K., BENISCH, C. & KIPPENBERG, H.: *Gonioctena fornicata* (BRÜGGEMANN, 1873), Neufund für Deutschland – Mitteilungen des entomologischen Vereins Stuttgart 43: 7-11
- 2013 KIPPENBERG, H. & SCHMIDL, J.: Untersuchungen zur historischen und aktuellen Situation der Schilfkäfer im Höchststädter Weihergebiet – Beiträge zur bayerischen Entomofaunistik 12: 33-70
- 2016 Cho, H.-W., Kippenberg, H., & Borowiec, L.: Revision of the *Gonioctena nivosa* species-group (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Chrysomelinae) in the Holarctic region, with descriptions of two new species. ZooKeys 596: 87–128. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.596.8725