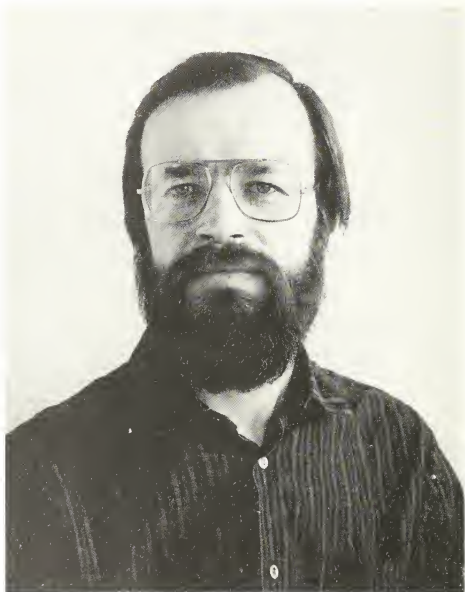


Obituary

Jorma Kyrki (1950-1986) (*)

Erkki M. LAASONEN



Jorma Henrik KYRKI, PhL, Vice President of the Finnish Lepidopterological Society and a member of the SEL since 1980, died suddenly on 9 November 1986 at his home in Rovaniemi, at the age of 35. The news of his untimely death was received with great sadness by us, Jorma's friends.

Jorma Kyrki was born in Turku on 2 December 1950. There he spent his childhood and schooldays. He obtained the degree of Master of Philosophical Sciences from the University of Turku. Jorma's career continued at

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Oulu University, from which he had already a Licentiate of Philosophy. He was putting the last touches to his thesis. All of Jorma's places of employment were connected with museums and entomology : the Natural History Collections of Tampere Museum, the Zoological Institute of Oulu University and finally the Department of Natural History, Provincial Museum of Lapland, where he held the position of department Assistant-in-Chief.

Jorma Kyrki's lepidopterological career had just begun. His main interest was the systematics of the superfamily Yponomeutoidea, with a worldwide perspective. His critical publication "The Yponomeutoidea : a reassessment of the superfamily and its suprageneric groups (Lepidoptera)" was published in *Entomologica Scandinavica* 15 : 71-84, 1984. This was supported by numerous additional observations and represented the basis of a thesis. Only the persistent difficulty of obtaining type material from remote countries and museums delayed the thesis. Another publication which reflects the thoroughness of Jorma's work was his "Distribution of the microlepidoptera in Finland. Fauna of the biogeographical provinces I." in *Notulae Entomologicae* 58 : 37-67, 1978. The first paper of this kind ever to be published in Finland, it was warmly received and resulted in a series of complementary publications concerning new finds. Jorma Kyrki and his co-workers published details of two lepidoptera new to science : *Elachista eskoi* KYRKI & KARVONEN (*Ent. Scand.* 15 : 521-525, 1985) and *Eudonia aequalis* SVENSSON & KYRKI (to be published in *Entomologica Scandinavica*). Jorma was co-author to at least fourteen papers reporting new lepidopteran species from Finland and he recently contributed to many others. Most of his papers contained unique, or at least very valuable, information on the biology of Finnish microlepidoptera. The Finnish Lepidopterological Society, especially, has suffered a severe loss : Jorma had just begun as its vice president, bringing fresh ideas for the development and enrichment of that Society. Jorma also regularly attended the SEL Congresses and he will be sadly missed by all the many friends he made at these.

In addition to all this, Jorma Kyrki was surprisingly a great music enthusiast. He played the cello and was recently heard regretting that he so seldom managed to pick up his instrument. Jorma was also an active member of the choir "Seitakuoro" in Rovaniemi.

Jorma Kyrki was known by all as a positive, industrious friend and colleague. Our feelings of loss can be voiced in this modest and inadequate manner, but none of us can fill the gap left by this eminent scientist and objective leader of the Finnish lepidopterological circle.