

**Obituary read by P. Zwick in honour of the late
Professeur Jacques AUBERT
at the XII International Symposium on Plecoptera,
Lausanne, 18-20 August 1995**

Chère Madame Aubert, cher Monsieur Aubert,
dear friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very sad, as we all are, that this little ceremony expressing our deep appreciation and admiration of the scientific work of Professeur Jacques AUBERT comes late, by a few days. I am very sorry that what was intended to please Professeur AUBERT has now to be said in the commemoration of this *grand maître de la plécoptérologie*, after his recent death. I am grateful to you, dear Madame Aubert, dear Monsieur Aubert, that you have come to participate in this ceremony, despite the sad circumstances.

The Standing Committee for the International Symposia on Plecoptera found it very easy to unanimously agree that in view of his outstanding success in our science Jacques AUBERT was the prime (although not the only) deserving candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Awards presented by our Society. It appears appropriate to separate the donation of his award from that of others, and to say a few words in the memory and honour of Jacques AUBERT now.

The publication list of Jacques AUBERT which I have before me includes more than 80 original publications on Plecoptera. These papers were published between 1943 and 1995, over a period of more than 50 years and constitute a very impressive life work in the strict sense of the word. In it, I recognize several distinct fields of special lasting importance and would like to say a few words on each of these focal points in Jacques AUBERT's work.

Jacques AUBERT's first paper on Plecoptera, in 1943, and one additional one, in 1947, dealt with Plecoptera chromosomes. Both of these papers were co-authored by Professor MATTHEY, under whom Jacques AUBERT was then a student. It may well be that Professor MATTHEY would have liked his student to procede in this direction; however, this line of research was not followed up further by Jacques AUBERT. This is by no means to be taken as an indication of lack of success with this work - to the contrary. These two papers on Plecoptera chromosomes were not only the first ones on the subject, they also remain the latest ones on it, even today. Could there be better evidence for the lasting importance of Jacques AUBERT's work?! Here, we have a first milestone of his Plecoptera research.

We all realize that stonefly faunistics and mainly stonefly taxonomy were the outstanding domain of Jacques AUBERT. His *Plécoptères de la Suisse Romande* (1946) was a standard text on which many subsequent workers relied and from which they have drawn. It also laid the foundations of his work on the Plecoptera in the *Fauna Helvetica* (1959), which remains the best text for identification of central European Plecoptera today.

Remember that Jacques AUBERT was working near the cradle of our science, not far from Geneva where François Jules PICTET published his world monograph of Plecoptera (1842), introducing wing vein homologies to the study of the order. Jacques AUBERT's other Swiss forerunner was F. RIS who (together with K.J. MORTON in Scotland and P. KEMPNY in Austria) introduced the study of external Plecoptera genitalia, at the turn of the century. The work of forerunners does not always facilitate one's own work; in the present case, this is true of the notorious Reverend L. NAVAS who, throughout his lifetime, kept covering the world map with type localities of ever new taxonomic puzzles.

Jacques AUBERT showed in an exemplary way how to deal with such heritage: he looked at the PICTET-collection in Geneva and found it to contain near to no original material, i.e., there was nothing to worry about. The good work of RIS and his contemporaries posed also no problems, but the publications by NAVAS did. Jacques AUBERT accepted the challenge and tracked NAVAS' types down. Only after he had cleared the ground, Jacques AUBERT started naming new species of his own; I wish the same care were always taken by every worker in the field. Certainly, we are all deeply in Jacques AUBERT's dept and profoundly grateful to him for his studies on, and his invaluable lists of, the Plecoptera types of NAVAS; here we have a second milestone in Jacques AUBERT's life work.

Milestone three is, of course, Jacques AUBERT's own taxonomic work. He named more than 150 species (or subspecies) of Plecoptera, and almost every one is valid today. Jacques AUBERT's descriptions are generally brief and concise, concentrating on the essential, and together with the remarkably clear and correct illustrations (many of which were prepared for him by Madame PETITPIERRE) precisely identify the species. In the few cases where I ever borrowed types from Jacques AUBERT's collection this proved to be a superfluous exercise: the type always looked exactly as described and illustrated in Jacques AUBERT's paper!

A fine sense of humour was displayed in the only description by Jacques AUBERT which was accompanied by the illustration of a shrivelled (but nevertheless distinct) species of *Nemoura*, instead of the usual beautiful comprehensive illustrations of cleared genitalia. Jacques AUBERT named it *navasi*, in appreciation of NAVAS' work. I would not be surprized if the very peculiar head pattern of the animal had suggested to Jacques AUBERT, already at the time of the description, that *N. navasi* would ultimately sink, as a synonym of *N. fulviceps* Klapálek.

The list of species named by Jacques AUBERT is far too long to be read or projected here, but it is rewarding to look at it in a synoptic way. A plot of the origin of the new species against their respective year of description (Figure 1) nicely shows that in the early years of Jacques AUBERT's studies the war situation restricted him to his home country and that later adjacent and successively more and more distant regions to which Jacques AUBERT travelled on his motor cycle became accessible to him, and yielded new species. The relatively early end of descriptions from the Alps indicates no neglect; instead, Jacques AUBERT had simply exhausted the supply of new species! A new Alpine subspecies the description of which Jacques AUBERT co-authored, in 1995, is an exception; it is not shown in the graph, to avoid offsetting the time scale. The right portion of the graph shows Jacques AUBERT's work on exotic species; much of it is based on collections of his former colleague in Lausanne, F. SCHMID, who is now in Canada.

The impact of Jacques AUBERT's work is clearly reflected by the percentages of known species that he named in several regional faunas; Figure 2 provides examples. Jacques AUBERT named about 20% of the European Plecoptera, and over 80% of the Nemouridae in Assam (the only family Jacques AUBERT studied from there).

As we all know, taxonomic authorship is everlasting and never expires. Particularly when the species are valid (as nearly all of AUBERT'S are) they constitute a living monument of the author's successful work. Also, several stonefly taxa were named by other authors, to honour Jacques AUBERT (and others are still in print now):

<i>Aubertiana</i> Zhiltzova, 1995	[Central Asia]
<i>Aubertoperla</i> Illies, 1963	[Andes]
<i>Brachyptera auberti</i> Consiglio, 1957	[Sardinia]
<i>Isoperla auberti</i> Rauser, 1965	[Bulgaria]
<i>Protonemura auberti</i> Illies, 1954	[Germany]
<i>Taeniopteryx auberti</i> Kis et Sowa, 1964	[Romania]
<i>Teutoperla auberti</i> Illies, 1965	[Chile]
<i>Leuctra vinconi aubertorum</i> RAVIZZA & RAVIZZA DEMATTEIS, 1994	[Alps]

Finally, there is a fourth point of major importance in Jacques AUBERT's life work on Plecoptera; it is of particular significance in the context of the present symposium. It was Jacques AUBERT who in 1956 invited six European colleagues to attend the First International Symposium on Plecoptera, here in Lausanne, initiating a sequence of successful international symposia which are of vital importance to our science. The living tradition of these gatherings will also continuously be connected with his name.

Chère Madame Aubert, cher Monsieur Aubert, dear friends and colleagues, we are all very sad that Jacques AUBERT did not live to receive our grateful thanks for his contribution to stonefly science, of which this plaque is an expression. A lifetime work like that of Jacques AUBERT is impossible without loving support in the family and shared interest which was clearly seen when both Jacques AUBERT and his wife attended several of the later symposia.

I would like you, chère Madame Aubert, to accept this plaque in your late husband's place. Please, be certain that his name and memory will remain alive and cherished among his fellow stonefly students.

Jacques AUBERT's papers on Plecoptera

- AUBERT, J. & R. MATTHEY (1943): Le problème des hétérochromosomes chez les Perles (Plecoptera). - Arch. Julius Klaus-Stift. Vererb.-Forsch., Zürich, 18.
- AUBERT, J. (1945): Le microptérisme chez les Plécoptères Perlariés. - Rev. Suisse Zool., Genève, 52: 395-399.
- AUBERT, J. (1946): Les Plécoptères de la Suisse Romande. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 20: 8-128.
- AUBERT, J. (1947): Notes sur la collection de Plécoptères du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Genève (Coll. PICTET). - Rev. Suisse Zool., Genève, 54: 545-552.
- MATTHEY, R. & J. AUBERT (1947): Les chromosomes des Plécoptères. - Bull. biol. France. Belg., Paris, 81: 202-246.
- AUBERT, J. (1948a): Plécoptères décrits par le R.P.L. NAVAS S.J. I. Notes sur quelques types du Musée de Barcelone. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 21: 180-184.
- AUBERT, J. (1948b): Un Plécoptère nouveau des Préalpes vaudoises: *Leuctra autumnalis* n.sp. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 21: 469-470.
- AUBERT, J. (1949a): Plécoptères helvétiques. Notes morphologiques et systématiques. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 22: 217-236.

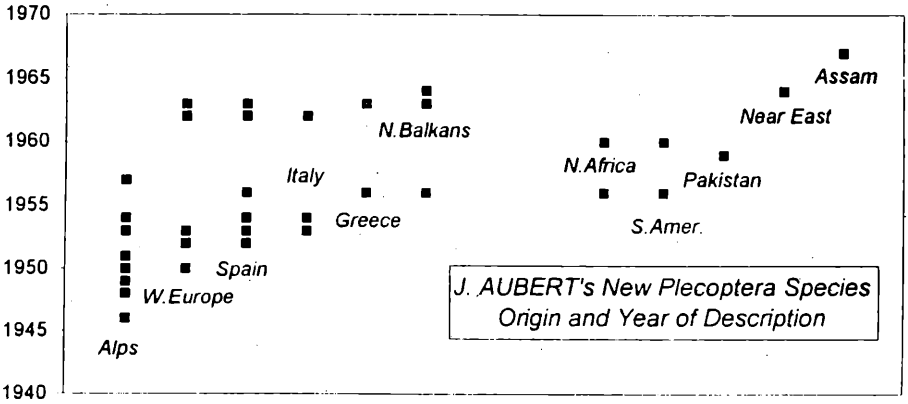
- AUBERT, J. (1949b): La répartition des Plécoptères dans le monde. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 22: 361.
- AUBERT, J. (1949c): Les Plécoptères de la Suisse Romande. - C.R. 13. Congr. internat. Zool., Paris, 1948: 468.
- AUBERT, J. (1949d): La répartition des Plécoptères dans le monde. - C.R. 13. Congr. internat. Zool., Paris, 1948: 468-469.
- AUBERT, J. (1949e): Plécoptères helvétiques. Notes faunistiques et zoogéographiques. - Bull. Soc. Vaudoise Sci. Nat., Lausanne, 64: 321-360.
- AUBERT, J. (1950a): *Nemoura undulata* RIS, un Plécoptère mal connu des Alpes suisses. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 23: 65-66.
- AUBERT, J. (1950b): Note sur les Plécoptères européens du genre *Taeniopteryx* PICTET (*Nephelopteryx* KLAPÁLEK) et sur *Capnia vidua* KLAPÁLEK. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 23: 303-316.
- AUBERT, J. (1950c): L'origine et l'évolution des Insectes. - Bull. Soc. Vaudoise Sci. Nat., Lausanne, 64: 461-477.
- AUBERT, J. (1951a): *Leuctra meridionalis* n.sp., un Plécoptère nouveau du versant sud des Alpes. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 24: 181-182.
- AUBERT, J. (1951b): Plécoptères helvétiques; description de larves nouvelles. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 24: 279-298.
- AUBERT, J. (1951c): Plécoptères helvétiques. Compléments faunistiques. - Bull. Soc. Vaudoise Sci. Nat., Lausanne, 65: 73-77.
- AUBERT, J. (1952a): Plécoptères décrits par le R.P.L. NAVAS S.J. 2. Note sur quelques types des Muséums de Barcelone et de Paris. 3. Les espèces de la péninsule ibérique. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 25: 239-250.
- AUBERT, J. (1952b): Plécoptères récoltés par Mr. E. SCHMID en Espagne. - Eos, Rev. Esp. Ent., Madrid, 28: 249-270.
- AUBERT, J. (1952c): Plécoptères pyrénéens. Notes sur le genre *Pachyleuctra* DESPAX et description de quelques larves nouvelles. - Bull. Soc. ent. France, Paris, 57: 121-126.
- AUBERT, J. & H. BERTRAND (1952): Récoltes de Plécoptères dans les Pyrénées. - Ann. Soc. ent. France, Paris, 121: 93-106.
- HANSON, J.F. & AUBERT, J. (1952): First supplement to the CLAASSEN catalogue of the Plecoptera of the world. - Privatdruck, USA, ohne Ortsangabe, 23 pp.
- AUBERT, J. (1953a): Les Plécoptères de la collection A. COSTA (Musée zoologique de Naples). - Ann. Ist. Mus. Zool. Univ. Napoli, 5 1: 1-6.
- AUBERT, J. (1953b): Contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères et des Epheméroptères de la Calabre. - Ann. Ist. Mus. Zool. Univ. Napoli, 5 2: 1-35.

- AUBERT, J. (1953c): Plécoptères européens nouveaux. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 26: 72-76.
- AUBERT, J. (1954a): Quelques Nemuridae espagnols nouveaux. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 27: 115-123.
- AUBERT, J. (1954b): Contribution a l'étude du genre *Leuctra* STEPHENS et description de quelques espèces nouvelles de ce genre. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 27: 124-123.
- AUBERT, J. (1954c): *Nemoura brevistyla* RIS et *Nemoura nitida* (PICTET) RIS (Plecopt. Nemouridae). - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 27: 280.
- AUBERT, J. (1954d): *Dinocras klapaleki* n. sp. et la répartition des *Dinocras* en Suisse et en Europe. (Plécoptères Perlidae). - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 27: 437-440.
- AUBERT, J. (1954e): Note sur quelques Plécoptères de Piémont et de Ligurie avec la description de deux espèces nouvelles. - Boll. Soc. Ent. Ital., Genova, 84: 107-113.
- AUBERT, J. (1954f): Nouvelle contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères de Calabre (Italie méridionale). - Ann. Ist. Mus. Zool. Univ. Napoli, 6 6: 1-18.
- AUBERT, J. H. BERTRAND (1955): Récoltes de Plécoptères dans les Pyrénées (Note complémentaire). - Bull. Soc. ent. France, Paris, 60: 146-149.
- AUBERT, J. (1956a): *Eoperla ochracea* KOLBE, un Plécoptère mal connu du bassin méditerranéen. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 18-19.
- AUBERT, J. (1956b): Contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères de Grèce. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 187-213.
- AUBERT, J. (1956c): Synonymie et homonymie de quelques Plécoptères. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 214-215.
- AUBERT, J. (1956d): *Andiperla willinki* n.sp., Plécoptère nouveau des Andes de Patagonie. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 229-232.
- AUBERT, J. (1956e): Contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères d'Afrique du Nord. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 419-436.
- AUBERT, J. (1956f): Plécoptères décrits par le R.P.L. NAVAS S.J. 4. Liste des types actuellement connus. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 437-445.
- AUBERT, J. (1956g): Contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères de Belgique. - Bull. Inst. r. Sci. Nat. Belgique, Bruxelles, 32 15: 1-12.
- AUBERT, J. (1956h): Plécoptères des Monts Sibillins. - Mem. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat., Verona, 5: 89-91.
- AUBERT, J. (1956i): Contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères d'Espagne. - Mem. Soc. Vaudoise Sci. Nat., Lausanne, 11: 209-276.

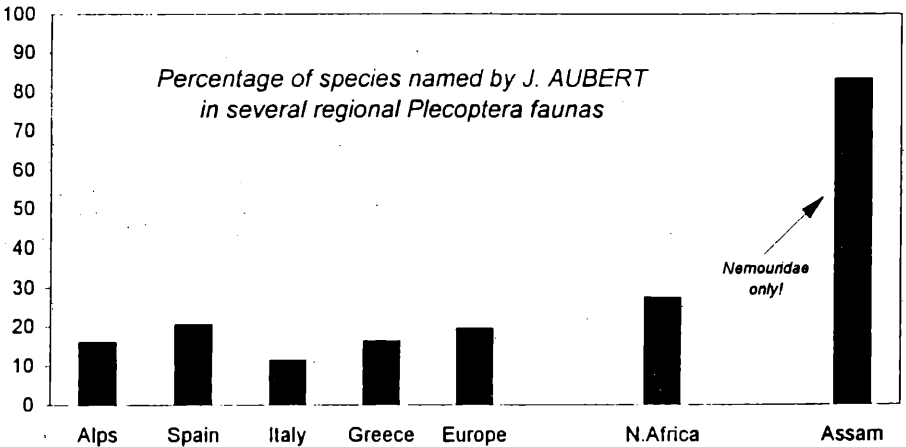
- AUBERT, J. (1956k): Le premier Symposium européen sur les Plécoptères. - Mitt Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 29: 446-449.
- AUBERT, J. (1957a): Deuxieme contribution a l'étude des Plécoptères de Belgique. - Bull.Inst.r.Sci.Nat.Belgique, Bruxelles, 33 27: 1-3.
- AUBERT, J. (1957b): Quelques Plécoptères recoltés en Sicile. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 30: 175-177.
- AUBERT, J. (1957c): Les *Leuctra* du groupe de *inermis* KEMPNY et quelques espèces inermes isolées (Plécoptères Leuctridae). - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 30: 285-312.
- AUBERT, J. (1957d): Les Plécoptères du Musée de Barcelone. - Trab. Mus. Zool., Nueva Ser. Zool., Barcelona, 2: 3-6.
- AUBERT, J. (1957e): La valeur des caractères morphologiques utilisés en systématique. - Verh. Schweiz. naturf. Ges., Aarau, 1957: 96-99.
- AUBERT, J. (1958a): Deux *Leuctra* gynandromorphes (Plécoptères Leuctridae). - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 31: 325-327.
- AUBERT, J. (1958b): Les Plécoptères de Calabre (Italie méridionale). - Ann. Ist. Mus. Zool. Univ. Napoli, 10 4: 1-51.
- AUBERT, J. (1959a): Plécoptères du Pakistan. - Mém. Soc. Vaudoise Sci. Nat., Lausanne, 12: 5-91.
- AUBERT, J. (1959b): Plecoptera. - Insecta Helvetica, Fauna, Lausanne, 1: 1-140.
- AUBERT, J. (1960a): Contribution à l'étude des Notonemourinae (Plecoptera) de l'Amérique du Sud. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 33: 47-64.
- AUBERT, J. (1960b): Contribution à l'étude des Plécoptères du Maroc. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 33: 213-222.
- AUBERT, J. (1961): Los "Plecopteros" del Instituto Espanol de Entomologia. - Graellsia, Rev. Ent. Espan., Madrid, 19: 91-94.
- AUBERT, J. (1962): Quelques *Leuctra* nouvelles pour l'Europe (Plécoptères Leuctridae). - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 35: 155-169.
- AUBERT, J. (1963a): Les Plécoptères des cours d'eau temporaires de la péninsule ibérique. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 35: 301-315.
- AUBERT, J. (1963b): Deux *Protonemura* nouvelles de France et d'Espagne. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 36: 123-126.
- AUBERT, J. (1963c): Quelques Plécoptères de Yougoslavie. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 36: 127-128.
- AUBERT, J. (1963d): Les Plécoptères de la péninsule ibérique. - Eos, Rev. Esp. Ent., Madrid, 39: 23-107.
- AUBERT, J. (1963e): Les Plécoptères des Vosges. - Ass. Philomatique Alsace Lorraine (Centenaire) (Hrsg.): Le Hohneck: 287-292; Strasbourg.

- AUBERT, J. (1963f): Contribution à l'étude des Plécoptères du Massif Central. - Bull. Soc. ent. France, Paris, 68: 163-185.
- AUBERT, J. (1963g): Quelques Plécoptères de Grèce. - Bonn. zool. Beitr., 14: 224-227.
- AUBERT, J. (1964a): Plécoptères du nord de l'Iran. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 37: 69-80.
- AUBERT, J. (1964b): Quelques Plécoptères du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Vienne. - Ann. nat.-hist. Mus. Wien, 67: 287-301.
- AUBERT, J. (1965): Les Plécoptères du Parc National Suisse. - Ergebn. wiss. Unters. schweiz. NatnParks, Liestal, 10 55: 223-271.
- AUBERT, J. (1966a): Quelques Plécoptères récoltés au col de Bretolet. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 38 3/4: 227-228.
- AUBERT, J. (1966b): Notes sur quelques Plécoptères du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Budapest. - Ann. hist.-nat. Mus. nat. Hung., Budapest, 58: 285-288.
- AUBERT, J. (1966c): Quelques Plécoptères d'Afghanistan. - Ann. hist.-nat. Mus. nat. Hung., Budapest, 58: 289-292.
- AUBERT, J. (1967): Les Nemouridae de l'Assam (Plécoptères). - Mitt. schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 39 3/4: 209-253.
- AUBERT, J. (1980): Plécoptères et pollution. - Mitt. schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 53(4): 411-412.
- AUBERT, J. (1984): Allocution de clôture. (8th International Symposium on Plecoptera, Toulouse, August 17-20, 1983). - Annl. Limnol. 20: 9-10.
- AUBERT, J. (1984): L'Atlas des Plécoptères de Suisse - Influence de la pollution. - Annl. Limnol. 20: 17-20.
- AUBERT, J. (1985): Les Plécoptères du Napf et des Préalpes de Lucerne et d'Unterwald. - Ent. Ber. Luzern, 14: 93-111.
- AUBERT, J. (1985): *Brachyptera braueri* KLAPÁLEK 1900, Plécoptère nouveau pour la Suisse, mais espèce disparue de ce pays. Mitt. schweiz. ent. Ges., 58(3-4): 529 (franz.).
- AUBERT, J. (1986a): Les Plécoptères du Napf et des Préalpes de Lucerne et d'Unterwald (Plecoptera). Complément et corrections. - Ent. Ber. Luzern 15: 17-18.
- AUBERT, J. (1986b): Quelques Plécoptères helvétiques du Natur-Museum de Lucerne - Ent. Ber. Luzern 15: 19-25.
- AUBERT, J. (1986): Quelques Plécoptères nouveaux pour la faune de Suisse. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges. 59: 407-408.
- AUBERT, J. (1986): Les Plécoptères de Alpes Françaises. - Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr. 22(1): 81-104.
- AUBERT, J. (1989): Les Plécoptères des cantons de Vaud et Fribourg. - Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sc. Nat. 79(4): 237-283.
- VINÇON, G., C. RAVIZZA & J. AUBERT (1995): *Leuctra subalpina*, a New Species of Leuctridae (Insecta, Plecoptera) from the Western Alps and the Apennines. - Aquatic Insects 17(3): 181-186.

**FIGURE 1: Origin and Year of Description
of New Plecoptera Species by
J. AUBERT**



**FIGURE 2: Percentage of Species Named by
J. AUBERT**



**PROFESSEUR JACQUES AUBERT
AND MADAME CECILE AUBERT**

