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Obituary

DR. H.C. HANS MENDEL (5.1.1927-17.6.2004)



HANS MENDEL was the third of four children of HANS and EMMA MENDEL in Pirmasens. He went to school at Kempten where he spent most of his life. In 1944, shortly before finishing high school, he was called into the army and served in an anti-aircraft unit. He became captive of war but was released in July 1945. HANS MENDEL then turned to agriculture, took practical courses and learned the profession at various agricultural schools and highschools in Kempten and Landsberg. In 1951, he completed his school education at Landsberg with university entrance. After study, from 1953 on, he worked as a teacher and head of the Landwirtschaftliche Berufsschule in Landsberg county. HANS and ERNA MENDEL married in 1954, their daughters CHRISTINE and ELISABETH were born in 1957 and 1960, respectively. In 1959-1961 HANS MENDEL studied again and became a science teacher at secondary schools, teaching chemistry, biology and geography. Later he was also vice rector at the Kempten Mädchenrealschule. Health problems necessitated his early retirement in the summer of 1983. He survived a severe cardiac infarction in 1987 but needed very complex heart surgery again in July 2000. He died of sudden heart failure.

Music played an important role in HANS MENDEL'S life. For three years, until 1961, he was the organist and director of the church choir at Issing in Landsberg County. From 1962 to 2001 he was head of the men's Volks-Chor Kempten.

HANS MENDEL'S other important private activity was in biology. Over the years, he worked and published on several groups of organisms. He started

with grasses (Poaceae) on which he worked for about ten years, until 1957, establishing a large special herbarium. He also joined the Bayerische Botanische Gesellschaft. After an intermezzo of interest in Odonata he started working on Plecoptera in 1964. From 1969 on several families of aquatic Diptera, mainly the Limoniidae, became the focal point of his interest. He had also an interest in several other families of Diptera but could not develop it to a similar degree, due to increasing professional workload.

In each taxonomic group that he studied HANS MENDEL contacted recognized experts in the respective field to learn from them, for example AUBERT, RAUŠER and ILLIES for Plecoptera. I have fond memories of his visits to Prof. J. ILLIES at Schlitz, and especially of our trip to the 4th International Symposium on Plecoptera at Abisko, Swedish Lapland. We went there from Schlitz by car, together with G. SUSEMICHEL, Prof. T. KAWAI (Nara, Japan) and Dr. J. RAUŠER (Brno, Czech Republic), camping in our tent called 'Hotel Eurasia' on the way, except one night when we stayed with Prof. K. MÜLLER, in his field station at Messaure. This contact later proved most important because K. MÜLLER inspired HANS MENDEL to work on Diptera. Between 1969 and 1985, HANS MENDEL went to Messaure or Umeå almost every year to meet K. MÜLLER and work with him, spending school summer vacations in northern Sweden. On the way, the family sometimes stopped at Schlitz; it was always great fun when HANS and his family arrived, in their minibus.

His thorough work and the many resulting papers earned HANS MENDEL universal recognition. Nine species of Diptera and one caddisfly were named after him. However, the most obvious recognition of HANS MENDEL'S successful scientific work is the award of the degree of Dr Phil. h.c. by the University of Umeå, in 1979. HANS MENDEL gathered very large important collections of insects and named a number of new species, especially among the Diptera: Limoniidae. His collection of Diptera is in the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn while the Plecoptera collection is kept in the Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum at Linz, Austria. In recent years, HANS MENDEL'S interest focused on amber fossils of which he also had a large collection. It will in future be owned by his two grandsons, ANDREAS and MAXIMILIAN.

HANS MENDEL is missed very much by his family and by colleagues. He will always be remembered as a good friend and companion and a hard-working dedicated and thorough scientist.

I cordially thank ERNA MENDEL for data on her husband's vita and for a list of his scientific papers compiled by HANS MENDEL himself.

Peter Zwick, Schlitz

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A new on-line journal, *Illiesia, International Journal of Stonefly Research* is being published by Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, USA and the Slovenian Museum of Natural History. The journal publishes papers dealing with any area of plecopteran research. The Journal is published on the World Wide Webb and it is freely available to all individuals and institutions, and provides an alternative to excessively priced scientific journals. Before a paper is accepted for publication on the internet, it is subjected to rigorous peer review under the direction of the Advisory Board. Editors are Professors Ignac Sivec and Bill P. Stark. The Advisory Broad includes Professors B. Kondratieff, S. Szczytko, K. Stewart, R. Baumann, C. R. Nelson, W. Graf, J. Brittain, and T. Shimizu. Any questions can be directed to illiesia@pms-lj.si

The first issues of the journal have been posted on the internet at <http://www2.pms-lj.si/illiesia>. The following paper has been published in Volume 1: 2005:

“New species of *Tyloperla* (Plecoptera: Perlidae) from Vietnam and Thailand” by Bill P. Stark and Ignac Sivec (*Illiesia*/ 2005 1(1): 1-7, 25 January 2005); “*Cryptoperla dui*, sp. n., a new stonefly from South China (Plecoptera: Peltoperlidae)” by Ignac Sivec (*Illiesia* 2005 1(2): 1-2, 6 January 2005; and “Larvae of the winter stonefly genus *Allocapnia* (Plecoptera: Capniidae) in Mississippi, USA” by Bill P. Stark & Joe W. Lacey (*Illiesia* 2005 1(3):1-11, 7 March 2005). “Life history of the stonefly

Isogenoides zionensis (Plecoptera: Perlodidae) from the San Miguel River, Colorado” by John B. Sandberg & Kenneth W. Stewart (*Illiesia* 2005 1(4):1-12);”A new species of *Notoperla* (Plecoptera: Gripopterygidae) from Chile.” Ian McLellan, Maritza Mercado & Simon Elliott /*Illiesia*/ 2005 1(5):1-7 (14 April 2005).

RECENT PLECOPTERA LITERATURE (CALENDAR YEAR 2004 AND EARLIER. Papers made available after April 2005 will be included in the next issue). **If papers were missed, please bring these to the attention of the Managing Editor.**

Aagaard, K., J. O Solem, T. Bongard and O. Hanssen. 2004. Studies of aquatic insects in the Atna River 1987-2002. *Hydrobiologia* 521: 87-105.

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