

## IN MEMORIAM JAROSLAV RAUŠER<sup>1</sup>

Again, we have lost one of our dear friends and colleagues: Jaroslav Raušer of Brno, Czech Republic, died in May 1993; he leaves his wife and a son. Jaroslav was born in Prague, on 15 December 1925. He was a student of science at Brno and graduated with a thesis on Silesian *Leuctra*; his Ph.D. thesis was on the Zoology of the Danube. He attended the first Plecoptera Symposium at Lausanne (1956), and the ones at Plön (1963) and Abisko (1968).

Jarek always loved to work on stoneflies, even though most of his professional work (as university lecturer and head of department) was in geography, where he produced over 200 publications. Jarek's papers on taxonomy and biogeography of European and Asian<sup>2</sup> Plecoptera are listed below. They are of lasting importance; all are accompanied by masterful drawings. His work on larval taxonomy has earned him the widest recognition, and will continue to do so. He collected and bred out last instar larvae of most European stoneflies, producing widely used keys, e.g., the one on *Protonemura* (1956). The greater part of his voluminous key to central European stoneflies (which he had with him at Schlitz, in 1968!) finally appeared in 1980.

Jarek spent a month at Schlitz, with Joachim Illies, when I came to know and like him as a helpful experienced elder colleague and as a cheerful friend. This was immediately before the Plecoptera Symposium in Abisko, and we travelled from Schlitz to North Sweden by car (together with Teizi Kawai and Hans Mendl) - it was a very memorable trip!

Despite his cheerfulness, Jarek's life was in fact overshadowed by traumatic experiences under dictatorships, first in the Nazi camp at Dachau during his boyhood, and again when his country was once more occupied, in 1968. He also suffered from diabetes and of the severe complications it inflicted upon him, on top of other personal difficulties. The news of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact arrived during the Plecoptera Symposium at Abisko and cast Jarek into a turmoil of despair and rebellious excitement. He left for home as soon as possible. For years afterwards, Jarek answered no mail from the west, but occasional letters arrived from field trips, e.g. to Bulgaria, under acronyms.

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<sup>1</sup>This obituary partly relies on biographic and bibliographic information published by F. Gregor at the occasion of Jarek's sixtieth birthday (*Acta Ent. Bohemosl.* 84, 1987: 159-160). Dr. Jan Helesic is thanked for information in a letter.

<sup>2</sup>His study of Mongolian Plecoptera was accomplished without access to some types, so that he erroneously assigned an old name to some Perlodidae that were in fact a new genus; I intend to name it in Jarek's honor.

The recent major political changes came too late for Jarek; his health had deteriorated much before there was access to modern treatment. Although he could no longer work with a microscope, his vivid interest in stoneflies remained nevertheless alive. Jaroslav Raušer will be much missed by all his friends and colleagues; we will keep fond memories of him as an excellent stonefly worker, good colleague, and kind friend.

Peter Zwick

The following is a passage from a letter from Prof. Aubert to Peter Zwick on his memories of Dr. Raušer (translated from French by Peter Zwick):

"I was very sad to learn of the death of Jaroslav Raušer. You certainly know that, like myself, he suffered from diabetes. However, he disposed of medical help half a century later than we in the west European countries: no slow insulin, no laser surgery to stop bleeding of the retina, etc. Therefore, he was much earlier than myself struck by the complications the disease involves.

During the war, he was imprisoned in the Dachau camp. He told me 'I had no insulin, but since there were no carbohydrates to eat, I remained in equilibrium.' An example of stoic Czech humor!

I visited him twice in Czechoslovakia, 1965 and 1966. This was very interesting and instructive for me. In 1965, we travelled in the country in my car, together with a botanist friend of his, Jan Smarda. In the car, there was no microphone and nobody could overhear us. If I would tell you about my two trips, and the ones on which he went in Switzerland with me, that would take at least 12 pages."

## STONEFLY PUBLICATIONS BY JAROSLAV RAUŠER

(in Czech, unless indicated otherwise; translations of titles that are not his own appear in square brackets)

Raušer, J. (1956a): K poznání pošvatek (Plecoptera) středni Moravice [To the knowledge of stoneflies of the middle reach of Moravice] Zur Kenntnis der Plecopterenfauna der mittleren Moravice. - Acta Soc. zool. bohemoslov., 20: 110-142 (Russian and German summaries).



- Raušer, J. (1963b): Ergebnisse der Albanien-Expedition 1961 des Deutschen Entomologischen Institutes. 11. Beitrag. Plecoptera [Results of the Albanian expedition of the German Entomological Institute. 11. contribution. Plecoptera]. - Beitr. Ent., Berlin, 13: 797-813 (in German; summaries in English, Russian).
- Raušer, J. (1964): Verbreitungsgeschichte der tschechoslowakischen Plecopterenassoziationen [Distributional history of Czechoslovak Plecoptera associations]. - Gewäss. Abwäss. Düsseldorf, 34/35: 115-129 (in German).
- Raušer, J. (1965a): Plecoptera bulgarica II [Bulgarian Plecoptera, II]. - Acta Faun. ent. Mus. nat. Pragae, 10 (92): 125-138 (in German, Czech summary).
- Raušer, J. (1965b): Plécoptères nouveaux de la Tchécoslovaquie [Plecoptera new for Czechoslovakia]. - Mitt. Schweiz. ent. Ges., Lausanne, 37: 157-163 (in French).
- Raušer, J. (1965c): K otázce vývoje plecopterologických společenstev Slezska [To the knowledge of Plecoptera associations in Silesia]. Zur Frage der Entwicklung der plecopterologischen Gesellschaften Schlesiens. - Publ. Slezského muz. Opava, 14 (Ref. ent. Symposia 22.-24. září 1964): 188-216.
- Raušer, J. (1965d): Ergebnisse der Albanien-Expedition 1961 des Deutschen Entomologischen Institutes. 44. Beitrag Plecoptera (Nachtrag zum 11. Beitrag) [Results of the Albanian expedition of the German Entomological Institute. 44. contribution Plecoptera (Supplement to the 11. contribution)]. - Beitr. Ent. Berlin, 15 5/6: 759-760 (in German, summaries in English, Russian).
- Raušer, J. (1966): *Bulgaroperla mirabilis* gen. nov., sp. n. eine neue Steinfliegengattung von der Balkanhalbinsel [*Bulgaroperla mirabilis* gen. nov., sp. n. a new stonefly genus from the Balkan peninsula]. - Beitr. Ent., 16: 151-159 (in German, English and Russian summaries).
- Raušer, J. (1968): 67. Plecoptera. Ergebnisse der zoologischen Forschungen von Dr. Z. KASZAB in der Mongolei [Plecoptera. Results of zoological investigations by Dr. Z. KASZAB in Mongolia]. - Ent. Abh. Mus. Tierk. Dresden, 34(5): 329-398 (in English, German and Russian summaries).
- Raušer, J. (1969): Plecoptera. - Pp. 69-73 in: SKUHRAVY et al.: Metody sberu a chovu hmyzu [Collecting and rearing methods of insects]; Českoslov. Akademia Ved, Prague.
- Raušer, J. (1971): A contribution to the question of the distribution and evolution of plecopterological communities in Europe. - Acta faun. ent. Mus. nat. Pragae, 14 (158): 33-63.
- Raušer, J. (1980): Rád Pošvatky - Plecoptera [Order stoneflies - Plecoptera]. - Pp. 86-132 in: ROZKOSNY, R.(ed.), Klíč vodních larev hmyzu [Keys to aquatic insect larvae]; 522 pp., Českoslov. Akademie Věd.