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DR. ZANDIS SPURIS AS A TRICHOPTEROLOGIST
ON HIS 70th BIRTHDAY

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It is impossible to determine time when I met Zandis Spuris for all this happened more than half a century ago, sometime between the years 1941-42. The most likely venue was probably the Latvian University Hydrobiology Research Station in Riga, where the office of the Latvian Ornithological Centre was also located. Zandis was a frequent visitor there pursuing his interests in hydrobiology and dragonflies. My participation in bird banding program and interests in caddis-flies followed a similar path and it was inevitable that we would cross paths on some occasion. Most likely we were introduced to each other by one of the leading young hydrobiologists - Bruno Berzins (later a well known specialist on Rotatoria). At some stage we agreed that while collecting material, we would keep each other's interests in mind. This was all very well, however, the fury of World War II changed not only our plans, but also our lives. A small number of caddis-flies collected by Zandis 1942-43 did not reach me, but some information on 23 species has been recorded by Spuris in "Latvijas Entomologs" vol.7, 1963.



Dr. Zandis Spuris 1977 in Leningrad

Purposeful and planned collecting of caddis flies by Spuris probably started in 1952, when he began collecting material for his thesis on aquatic insects. More serious interest may be referred to 1960, the start of his planned Monograph of the Baltic Trichoptera. To understand his motivations, successes and failures, it is necessary to look briefly into his biography.

Zandis Spuris was born in Riga on the 25th of January, 1923. His primary and secondary schooling was done in Riga, completing the secondary school in 1943. The war was in full force and Latvian territory was first overrun by the Soviet and then by the German armies. The occupation forces and war prevented him from entering the university. He opted to stay for the next two years on his father's farm. Irrespective of the adverse condition of normal life, his first publication "Quelques données nouvelles sur la faune odonotologique de la Lettonie" appeared in Folia Zoologica et Hydrobiologica vol.12, 1943. In this paper, he presented faunistic and phenological

observations on dragonflies found in the surroundings of his father's farm in Jekabnieki, south of the city of Jelgava.

At the end of the war, Latvia was incorporated into the Soviet Union, and life gradually returned to a peacetime style. In the autumn of 1945 Spuris enrolled at the Faculty of Biological Sciences of the Latvian State University, from which he graduated in 1950 with a thesis on fauna of dragonflies of Latvia. After the graduation he was directed to take up work at the Latvian Academy of Sciences, hydrobiology section. The following year he began his postgraduate studies. In 1954, he successfully defended his thesis in the USSR Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. The topic of this work was the significance of aquatic insects as fish food in the lakes of Latvia, for which he was awarded "candidate of biological sciences" degree. For this study he collected a wide variety of aquatic insects, including extensive material of caddisfly larvae and adults, however, the main emphasis was on chironomid larvae. The work was supervised by Professor Dr. A. von Stackelberg.

For the next 22 years, from 1954 to 1976, Spuris worked in various branches of the Latvian Academy of Sciences in Riga and in Salaspils. For several years he was in charge of the Ornithological laboratory, investigating water birds. Afterwards he was in charge of the Invertebrate Laboratory. During this period he was able to undertake two periods of extensive field studies of aquatic insects. The first, from 1955 to 1960, investigating dragonfly fauna of Latvia, and the second, from 1961 to 1969, was devoted to the study of Latvian Trichoptera. The field work resulted in an accumulation of some 18,000 specimens of caddis-flies representing 149 species of which 20 species were recorded from Latvia for the first time. The investigations were aimed at the Latvian lakes. Of the 260 lakes, a total of 93 caddisfly species were recorded. Never before has such an extensive amount of material been made available for study in a relatively short time. This provided the opportunity to advance theories on lake fauna development in the lowlands of Eastern Baltic. The investigations were extended into Estonia during 1966-67, where 87 species were recorded, and to Lithuania in 1967-68, recording 90 species.

The results of these surveys were integrated into a single study, which Spuris in 1970 presented as a thesis 'The fauna of caddis-flies of the East Baltic' to the Zoological Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev and for which he was awarded the PhD degree. This work contains information on 201 species with their biology, distribution and phenology. It also includes zoogeographic analysis and discusses the post glacial development of caddis-fly fauna. Unfortunately this work has not been published.

It is a well known fact, that under the Soviet system all research activities are directed and supervised by political officials and not by scientists. For this reason Spuris was directed to change his field research away from the field of his speciality - aquatic entomology. Following orders by the administration of the Biological Institute, the Invertebrate Laboratory established and managed by Spuris, was closed. The research program on phytophagous insects of the lowland of the Bay of Riga was abandoned. Spuris left the Academy in 1976 and started work as a scientific editor with the newly established publishers of encyclopaedias in the fields of biology, medicine, agriculture and chemistry. After three years, in 1979, he returned to the Academy of Sciences, but this time as a research worker with the Botanic Gardens. For several years he was scientific deputy director until his retirement in 1991. As well as his official work duties, in 1960 Spuris initiated and organised the publication of the entomological journal "Latvijas Entomologs" of which he was the editor-in-chief for 30 years, from the first issue till 1990. Over the years articles on

Trichoptera were published by many authors. It is not surprising that his own output on Trichoptera research was curtailed.

Considering his wide knowledge in all aspects of zoology, over the last 15 years Spuris has been asked to advise on matters on biological, but particularly on zoological terminology of Latvian language in many popular publications. He was appointed as a scientific editor to translations in Latvian of a number of the popular writers such as G.Durrell and B.Grzimek. It came as no surprise that in a recent interview on the occasion of his 70th birthday, the weekly newspaper 'Izglitiba' ('Education') named Spuris as one of the most versatile zoologists of Latvia. It is indeed true, the Latvian nomenclature is one of his hobbies.

Irrespective of these wide interests, his love for caddis-flies was not forgotten. Spuris was the initiator and together with the late Dr.Olga Kachalova convened the first Soviet Union Symposium on Trichoptera, held in Latvia in 1983. The most important papers presented at the symposium were published in "Latvijas Entomologs". When nobody was prepared to organise the third Soviet Symposium, Spuris stepped in again and the venue took place in Latvia in 1990. He is also behind the publication of the new journal 'Acta Hydroentomologica Latvica'. The first issue contains some of the papers presented at the third Soviet symposium.

The work on Trichoptera was outside the official duties of his work, and therefore they were not supported by the Academy. Irrespective of the multitude of difficulties throughout the past 50 years, Spuris has presented us with a wealth of information on Trichoptera fauna of the Eastern Baltic shores, but particularly of Latvia.

The main trichopterological papers by Z.Spuris.

- 1953 On the most important animal species of the main biotopes in the Latvian SSR lakes and their distribution. - Latv.PSR Zin.akad.Vēstis 9:67-82 (In Latvian with Russian summary).
- 1954 The main components of the insect fauna in the major lakes of Latvia and their importance as fish food. Summary of cand.sci.thesis. Riga, 18 pp. (In Russian).
- 1960 The limnological characterization of the Engure lake. Rybnoechoz. vnutr.vod.LSSR (Riga) 5:167-198. (In Russian).
- 1962 Contribution to the fauna of caddisflies of lakes of the Latvian SSR. - Latv.Ent. 6:55-75. (In Russian with English summary).
- 1963 Notes on the caddisflies of the Zemgale plain. - Latv.Ent. 7:41-44. (In Russian).
- 1964 The caddisflies of the lakes of North Latvia. - Latv.Ent. 8:3-24. (In Russian).
- 1965 New data on the caddisfly fauna of Latvia and South-East Estonia. - Latv.Ent. 10:33-52. (In Russian).
- 1966 The caddisfly collecting on light in Pûre (Latvia). - Latv.Ent. 11:77-83. (In Russian).
- 1966 Six new and some rare caddisfly species in the fauna of Latvia. - Latv.Ent. 11:85-97. (In Russian).
- 1966 Makstenes - Trichoptera. In: Z.Spuris (ed.), Latvijas dzīvnieki: 141-145. Riga. (In Latvian).
- 1967 The caddisfly fauna of the lakes of Latvia. - Latv.Ent.Suppl. 1:1-115. (In Russian).
- 1969 Investigations of the water insects in the valley of the Gauja River near Sigulda. - Latv.PSR Zin.akad.Vēstis 12:137-139. (In Latvian with Russian summary).
- 1969 The caddisfly collecting on light in Kingisseppa (Estonia). - Izv.Akad.nauk Est.SSR, Ser.biol. 18(2):225-227. (In Russian).
- 1969 New records of Trichoptera from Southern Lithuania. - Fragmenta Faunistica (Warszawa) 15(12):1-11.
- 1970 East Baltic area as a separate zoogeographical district. - Latv.PSR Zin.akad.Vēstis 7:13-17. (In Russian).
- 1970 The caddisfly fauna of East Baltic (mainly lake inhabiting species). - Summary of PhD thesis. Kiev, 30pp. (In Russian).
- 1971 The caddisflies of the lakes of Latvia. - Proc.13th Internat.Ent.Congr.Leningrad 1:560. (In Russian).
- 1971 Contribution to the caddisfly fauna of Estonia. - Latv.Ent. 14:47-63. (In Russian).
- 1971 The caddisflies (Trichoptera) in River Daugava between Kegums and Riga in 1969. - Latv.Ent. 14:37-46. (In Latvian).
- 1976 The caddisfly collecting on light in the dendrological reserve "Troštjanec" (Ukraine) (jointly with A.Smetanin). - Latv.Ent. 18:61-68. (In Russian).
- 1982 The occurrence of caddisflies in the crowns of the apple-trees. - Latv.Ent. 25:59-62. (In Latvian).
- 1985 The first All-Union trichopterological symposium. - Latv.Ent. 28:58-62. (In Russian).
- 1988 A survey of the caddisfly fauna of the USSR. - Latv.PSR Zin.Akad.Vēstis 6:88-92. (In Russian).
- 1989 Catalogue of the insects of Latvia. 7.Caddisflies (Trichoptera). - Latv.Ent. 32:5-42. (In Latvian with English and Russian summaries).
- 1989 Synopsis of the fauna of the Trichoptera of the USSR. - Latv.Ent.Suppl. 4, 84pp. (In Russian with English summary).
- 1991 New taxa of Trichoptera described in 1961-1970. - Latv.Ent. 34:54-95.



JAPANESE CADDISFLIES WANTED

Having a poor collection of caddisflies from Japan, I would like to have a representative cross-section of the fauna of this country, e.g. 100 or 200 species representing all families and genera, 3-5 specimens of each (males and females), well labelled and identified, preferably in alcohol; and some representative larvae. I offer in exchange the same quantity of similar material from Europe and/or southeastern Asia.

Hans Malicky (address on cover inside)

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