

Braueria 42

Lunz, April 2015

Dear Trichopterologist,

In earlier times it was normal that a scientist, when he had found out something interesting, wrote a publication to inform fellow workers. These times are gone, and only fossils like me continue this tradition. The bulk of scientists try to collect impact factors which are obtainable only in a selection of journals which belong to big and profit-oriented companies. Readers have to pay for the access. Of course, every journal must be paid for, but it is the question how much (see below). One has to pay for the online access too.

In earlier times one could find relevant literature either in libraries, or through a standing order for the most important journals, or by asking the authors for a reprint. Such times have gone: libraries have no more money for most of these journals, privately purchased standing orders are hopeless for financial reasons, and requests for reprints from authors will not normally be answered.

Conclusion: if I cannot read a paper for these reasons, I cannot refer to it in my publications, and will not consider its contents. For instance, not considering newly described species in inaccessible journals. I suppose that many fellow workers have been doing this for some time.

An increasing number of papers have introduction and/or discussion chapters of the kind such as: Caddisflies are a group of insects with four wings and six legs (Švejk, Kasperl & Hártyjános 2012) whose larvae develop in water (Tatarin & Baudolino 2011) and have also six legs but no wings (Sadagora & Nasreddin 2010), and which have a worldwide distribution except in Nauru, the Easter Island and Vatican City (Ulenspiegel & Don Quixote 2014). At present, 10.743 species of Trichoptera are known worldwide (Einstein 1886), and so on..... - Asking the authors whether they had really read these papers, they normally reply: No, I found the references on the internet, but I have no access to the full article because it must be paid for, and my institution has no funding for that. – And you did not know the basic literature which is possibly some 20 or more years old? – No, I have not found it on the internet.

I had never thought that someone other than a trichopterist will read my modest expressions, but it appears that someone else had indeed read my editor's letter in Braueria 40 in which I criticised the behaviour of profit-oriented scientific publishers. Recently I learned that Taylor & Francis had me thrown off the Editorial Board of Aquatic Insects. My grief is limited. Aquatic Insects was a good journal under the earlier editors. The recently issued number indicates publication in 2013, the copyright is said to be 2014, and the number was mailed in 2015. So which is correct? Volume 34 had 226 pages for 376 € (personal subscription rate), vol. 35 included 118 pages at 400 € (personal subscription rate), and for volume 36 the price is announced at 834 € (no more personal subscription rate). To compare: Entomologist's Gazette (England) vol. 65 with 266 pages costs \$72 (= 60 €); Ephemera (France) vol. 14 with 140 pages costs 34 €; Entomo Helvetica (Switzerland) vol. 7 with 207 pages costs CHF 50.- (= 41 €); Entomologische Nachrichten und Berichte (Germany) vol. 57 has 284 pages and costs 45 €; Beiträge zur Entomofaunistik (Austria) vol. 15 with 204 pages costs 30 €. Concerning the quality of the scientific content, every reader may convince himself whether Aquatic Insects is twenty times better than the others.

Despite all that, scientific work continues. In April 2014 I was in Thailand collecting, for about two weeks in Pai in the northern part of the country, and then, together with Pongsak Laudee, Pornpip Chantaramongkol and Taeng-on Prommi, on the island of Samui where there are probably more tourists than caddisflies. The result of the trip was one species new to science, and four species new for the country. It is obvious that our working group had made effective work during the last 27 years in the country, and we consider the list of occurring species as practically complete.

Pongsak told me that he wants to invite the next (16th) International Symposium on Trichoptera to a place in southern Thailand, and I think that he will manage that very well.

You know probably that the 15th Symposium is on 4-8 June 2015 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA (cpe.rutgers.edu/trichoptera2015). I could not announce it in the last number of Braueria because I had not enough information at that time.

With best wishes,

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Braueria](#)

Jahr/Year: 2015

Band/Volume: [42](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Dear Trichopterologist, 3](#)