

Preface

This volume is dedicated to a scientist, who during the past four decades transformed the herpetology collection of Museum Koenig into one of the most prominent European research facilities for reptile systematics and biology. Under his management, the comparatively young collection of reptiles and amphibians in Bonn has grown tenfold and became one of the most important ones in Germany. Moreover, he dedicated his time and energy not only to science, but also to the development of the institute, which has been his second home. Thanks to his commitment and personality, he became the undisputed head of the vertebrate department, which he still leads today. He also was, and still is, the link between the museum and the many experts among laypersons, who contribute substantially to the growth of scientific knowledge and otherwise shy from direct contact with professionals. With the same spirit he cooperated with the Alexander Koenig Gesellschaft, the friends of the museum society.

Wolfgang Böhme is a passionate zoologist whose enthusiasm infected several generations of students, many of which later became successful scientists themselves. He regularly takes students on field courses, where he teaches them how to discover, observe and capture snakes, lizards and frogs, as well as identify other animals such as grasshoppers and bees. His favourite destination for this purpose has always been Lake Neusiedl that became a popular destination among biology students in Bonn.

Wolfgang Böhme frequently invited like-minded zoologists from other countries to work with him in Bonn or to attend German conferences, and it was obvious that he was thrilled for the opportunity to learn of other people's discoveries out of pure fascination by animals and without any jealousy.

During the past 40 years, the Museum's directors were grateful for his public-relations work. He frequently offered evening lectures for the general public with an enjoyable combination of adventure, discovery, and Böhme's characteristic humour. He authored popular articles for the media and for the institute's series "Tier und Museum" (later "Koenigiana"), a publication for which he acted as an editor. Similarly, he was always ready to take part in non-scientific events, where he participated in activities such as reading poems by his ancestor Wilhelm Busch, whose funny bone he obviously inherited.

With this volume on the occasion of his retirement from official duties, we want to thank him for his outstanding contribution to herpetology and to the development of Museum Koenig. I hope this is just the beginning of a new period of active research, for which we will always have a space available for him in our institute.



J. Wolfgang Wägele (Director)

Bonn, November 2010

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Bonn zoological Bulletin - früher Bonner Zoologische Beiträge.](#)

Jahr/Year: 2010

Band/Volume: [57](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Wägele Johann Wolfgang

Artikel/Article: [Preface 103](#)