©Zoologische Staatssammlung München/Verlag Friedrich Pfeil; download www.pfeil-verlag.de

c) Deep phylogeny was a topic addressed by several stimulating talks involving molecular and/or morphological approaches (Õunap, Yamamoto, Young, Beljaev, Lévêque). The data sets (nDNA; mtDNA genes; skeleton-muscular system) from those studies confirm, once again, the position of the Larentiinae/Sterrhinae lineage as sister group to all other geometrids. As postulated and forecasted by the previous FORUM HERBULOT congresses, the use of molecular methods has meanwhile much expanded and became a valuable tool for complementing the available morphological and ecological data sets. FORUM HERBULOT 5 offered a platform for defining and refining the work plans in order to focus future common research on deepening the insight into the basic phylogeny of Geometridae. First results from a project on Gondwanaland relicts in Chile and Tasmania (Hausmann) encourage further development of a common integrated taxonomic approach for the study of the relationships of 'southern clades' (Tasmania: Young, McQuillan – Chile: Parra, Hausmann – South Africa: Krüger, Staude).

d) Finally, the presentations of an array of projects on geometrid systematics, biodiversity patterns, and books in preparation (Lewis, Parra, Wojtusiak, Strutzenberger, Can, Mironov, Galsworthy, Wu, Han, Xue) were much appreciated.

Conclusions: For the forthcoming two-years-interval until the next FORUM HERBULOT, it is planned to establish tools for e-science in Geometridae, to extend the DNA barcoding campaign Geometridae to a global scale, and to refine and improve the "the FORUM HERBULOT world list of family group names in Geometridae", e.g. by considering new insights from molecular analyses and by extending the list from tribe to genus level.

3. FORUM HERBULOT 5 offered a pleasant post-conference tour (June 26-28) to the SEL (Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica) study area Sesvenna in Southern Tyrol (northern Italy) which was later featured on the local TV after an extensive 'shoot' and interviews on the lower steppe slopes. The collecting activities in the surrounding alpine and dry habitats yielded good results which will be communicated to the common database of TLMF Innsbruck and Nature Museum Bolzano. The 35 participants also enjoyed the opportunity to go on with discussions and work out plans for collaboration. The FORUM HERBULOT 5 came to an end with a guided visit to "Ötzi", the famous "man in the ice", at the Museum in Bolzano.

4. The chairman informed the participants of the sad news that Prof. Hiroshi Inoue, honorary member of the FORUM HERBULOT, had passed away a few days ago. The participants honoured this outstanding and great old colleague and friend by signing a book of condolence at the ZSM.

5. A proposal to have the next FORUM HERBULOT 6 in Gainesville, Florida, in 2010 (June 22-23), was generally welcomed. Chairman reported that future venues have been suggested by the museums in Pretoria (South Africa) and Concepción (Chile).

6. Participants expressed their thanks to the organizers and sponsors of the FORUM HERBULOT 5 (2008).

Memories of Claude Herbulot

Philippe Darge

Darge, P. (2009): Memories of Claude Herbulot. Pp. 119-121 in: Hausmann, A. (ed.): Proceedings of the fifth Forum Herbulot 2008. Global strategies for plotting geometrid biodiversity in web-based databases (Munich, ZSM, 24-28 June 2008). – Spixiana **32/1**: 119-121

Dr. Philippe Darge, vice-président du Conseil Régional Scientifique de Protection de l' Environnement en Bourgogne, Grand Rue 21, 21490 Clenay, France; e-mail: philippedarge@yahoo.fr

I met Claude Herbulot for the first time in spring 1964. Returning from Gabon, I wanted to show him the geometrids that I had collected in that African country over the course of more than a year.

Soon a deep friendship grew between us, and it was only ended by his death on 19 January 2006. From that very first contact, I was struck by his eyes, sparkling with intelligence and mischievous charm, scrutinizing delightfully all and everything with which man and the world could furnish his curiosity.

On many an occasion in Africa I admired his capacity for plunging into local life in a way where his natural curiosity came across as an interroga-

©Zoologische Staatssammlung München/Verlag Friedrich Pfeil; download www.pfeil-verlag.de

tion of brotherly enthusiasm rather than as mere inquisitiveness. The purchase of bananas and other fruit in an African market place, in Cameroun or in the Congo, was never done in just a minute but could easily take half an hour; he loved talking to the vendors, telling them how things went on way back in his own native village in the distant Ardennes hills, commenting, of course, upon each and everything – in the end everyone involved would burst into laughter …

Such little details help us appreciate how much "he cherished life and was able to cultivate it" (Montaigne: Essays).

Claude possessed a great capacity for listening to, and concentrating on, his partners in any discussion. For a long while he would pay attention, very silent, slightly bent forward, eyes half-shut. Then he would speak up, and his superb brain gave him the knack of explaining his views on the topic in a way that anybody interested in it could understand.

I remember one reunion in Paris, a decade ago, gathering together some 20 entomologists. One of them gave a talk on what DNA-data might contribute to the study of speciation. A rather furious debate ensued, and supporters and declared opponents clashed robustly but not with considered arguments. It was only after the dust had settled down again that Claude told us: "I think we must face the matter seriously and not with undue precipitation. Remember that in entomological history the criteria deemed sufficient for defining a species were for a long time simply the features of habitus. Later, when the shortcomings of that approach became obvious, additional means of differentiation were tried out more or less successfully: the study of the preimaginal instars; the chromosomes; the examination of the genitalia. For each of those new methods there were partisans and opponents – and what, after all, was the result? Certainly not a revolution overthrowing traditional entomology! Quite to the contrary, each new approach, especially concerning genitalia, brought us a remarkable advancement of our research. Now, with regard to DNA, I think we should evaluate seriously the advantages of this new source of information, but of course not uncritically: DNA must not substitute for morphological study but complement it. For this reason, research on DNA should be accessible to all and not kept within a few specialised institutions. Yes, we should try and explore all possible pathways of research simultaneously and in complementarity."

Doesn't that sound to you highly relevant even today?

Claude was interested in everyone and everything, and so he frequently had an opinion on this scientist or that publication. More often than not, his commentaries were taken as criticism, whereas in fact they were meant to encourage careful and effective work in doing research. Enjoying an extraordinary personal library and subscribing to a number of international entomological journals, Claude was particularly interested in publications on new species. He was a peer in this field since he published himself some 28 new genera and 862 species in the course of his entomological career; very few of those were subsequently synonymized (and then sometimes wrongly). He was most provoked by either a lack of precision and relevance in a description or, on the other hand, a profusion of unnecessary deliberations which only served, as he termed it, "to inflate the statistics of descriptions by the author and foster his career in science and administration".

I recall one situation when I found him angrily holding the description of a new geometrid in his hand: "I calculated", he said to me, "that one third of the criteria mentioned are shared with all the species in the genus; what is the use of listing them, and also providing an introduction with generalities that are known to everybody?"

Claude was not at all stern, but he insisted on the precision, accuracy, and rigour that he observed himself. On reading his papers, you will appreciate the skill with which he shared his knowledge by strictly concentrating on the essentials.

That's my contribution of vivid reflections of my friend Claude Herbulot in whose name and memory we have all come to this meeting today.

Address to Madame Colette Herbulot: Let me take the opportunity to thank Mme Herbulot for taking on the burden of a long journey to come here. Dear Colette, I am very glad to have you here with us and to renew together with you all these memories which we both share of the rich and great personality of Claude. As you can see, it is not just his wonderful collection alone which perpetuates his memory; it is also all the specialists, assembled here from all parts of the world, to honour the memory of an exceptional man of science and the humanities: Claude Herbulot.

I express my sincere gratitude to my friend Manfred Sommerer who enjoyed the kind assistance of Jeremy Holloway, for his invaluable help in translating these memories from French.

Thank you for your attention.

©Zoologische Staatssammlung München/Verlag Friedrich Pfeil; download www.pfeil-verlag.de

Claude Herbulot speaking at the official ceremony of the transfer of his collection to Munich, ZSM, June 24, 2000
(fragment of video presentation)

Evidemment, c'est avec une certaine tristesse, avec un peu de regret, que j'ai vu ma collection quitter mon petit appartement parisien. Mais, quand j'ai vu où elle arrivait, c'est une immense satisfaction que j'ai eue, qui a fait disparaître complètement les regrets desquels je vous ai parlé. Quand j'ai vu dans quelles conditions cette collection avait été transportée, avait été rangée, avec amour dirais-je, dans l'ordre que j'avais moi-même adopté, et tous ces soins qui lui ont déjà été donnés et qui ne manqueront pas de lui être donnés dans les années qui viennent – eh bien, à ce moment-là je dois dire que j'étais content et que j'oubliais les regrets […].

Obviously, I felt a certain sadness, some regret, when I watched my collection leave my little appartment in Paris. But when I saw where it arrived I was immensely satisfied, and that did completely away with the regrets I mentioned. Seeing under which circumstances my collection was transported, was ranged – with love, I would say – in the same order that I had myself adopted, and all the care that was spent on the collection and will be spent in the years to come – well, I must say, in that moment I was happy and I forgot any regret […].

Abstracts and brief versions of the talks of the Seminar Session

Taxonomic research: perspective from a research funding organisation

Pasi Sihvonen

Sihvonen, P. (2009): Taxonomic research: perspective from a research funding organisation. Pp. 121 in: Hausmann, A. (ed.): Proceedings of the fifth Forum Herbulot 2008. Global strategies for plotting geometrid biodiversity in web-based databases (Munich, ZSM, 24-28 June 2008). – Spixiana **32/1**: 121

Pasi Sihvonen, Academy of Finland, P.O. Box 99, FI-00501 Finland;
e-mail: pasi.sihvonen@aka.fi

An overview of recent and ongoing taxonomy initiatives and research projects is given, emphasis being on the European and North American projects. It is hoped that the knowledge of recent and ongoing initiatives will enable better coordination and planning of future projects, and ultimately, to improve their chances to succeed in research funding competitions both at the national and European level. In Europe among the most visible projects are Creating a Taxonomic E-science (CATE), European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT), Swedish Taxonomy Initiative and SYNTHESYS, the last being an European Commission funded project allowing researchers access to museums and herbaria across Europe. In North America the National Science Foundation funds most of the basis taxonomic research through programs such as Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy (PEET), Assembling the Tree of Life (AToL), Revisionary Systematics (RevSyS) and Planetary Biodiversity Inventories (PBI), the last two of which concentrate on descriptive taxonomy. The barcoding initiative is among the visible projects in North America also. When the large scale funding programs of Europe and North America are compared, the latter are more focused on researcher training. In the presentation concrete examples are given how the research funding applications could be improved, particularly in the field of (web-based) taxonomy.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Spixiana, Zeitschrift für Zoologie

Jahr/Year: 2009

Band/Volume: 032

Autor(en)/Author(s): Darge Philippe

Artikel/Article: Memories of CLAUDE HERBULOT - Abstracts and brief versions of the talks of the Seminar Session 119-121