

In memoriam Janusz Nast
(1908 - 1991)

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Janusz Nast was born in Warsaw on April 30th 1908. He finished his secondary education in 1927, and in the same year he took up studies at the Warsaw university. In 1937 he became an assistant at the State Zoological Museum in Warsaw. He specialized in zoology, focusing on Auchenorrhyncha. The beginning of the war interrupted his career. After the liberation of Poland in 1946 he returned to work at the State Zoological Museum. In 1950 he received the degree of doctor of philosophy at the Warsaw university. In 1954 he was given the title professor. Until his death on January 8th 1991, he worked at the Institute of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (former State Zoological Museum). His scientific achievement comprises more than 100 publications, including 55 scientific papers. His catalogues on the Auchenorrhyncha of the Palaearctic, Europe, and Poland are still a major basis for taxonomic work in these regions and major works of references cited in almost every auchenorrhyncho-logical paper today.

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Already his first work (1933), concerning central European and Mediterranean species of Cercopidae, proved him to be a clear-sighted and accurate scientist using modern taxonomic methods. As a result, the new genus *Triephorella* was distinguished.

In the following years he was mainly interested in recognizing species of Auchenorrhyncha which occur in Poland. After revising material collected by numerous Polish entomologists and after own field work from 1933 to 1935, he proved the occurrence of dozens of species new for the Polish fauna, including some rare species such as the cercopid species *Aphrophora major* Uhl. and *Peuceptyelus coriaceus* (Fall.).

Professor Janusz Nast visited the British Museum in 1948 - 1949. He had the opportunity there to study one of the world largest collections of Auchenorrhyncha, and he could also improve his taxonomic experience using the advices and clues from British researchers. The result of these studies was a revision of neotropical Cercopidae of the genus *Sphenorbina* Am. et Serv., and afterwards he worked on the Neotropical genera *Neolaccogrypota* Lall. and *Maxanthonia* Schm. As well as the African genus *Liorbinella* Hagl. During these studies, altogether 14 new species were described and many synonyms were established. Furthermore, he worked on the families Flatidae and Cixiidae and described 5 new genera and 18 new species from South America, New Guinea and Borneo.

Definitely his most important work was the comprehensive catalogue of "Palearctic Auchenorrhyncha (Homoptera)" published in 1972, which comprises more than 4000 species, with full lists of synonyms for each taxon. The book was mainly based on Metcalf's catalogue, who had collected the enormous amount of references on Homoptera since the beginning of zoological nomenclature. Nast's list was an urgently-needed update of Oshanin's list of the Palearctic Hemiptera dating from 1912. In 1979 and 1982, he added *addenda, corrigenda* and a list of references published after Metcalf's catalogue.

In 1987 he published a new, up-to-date species list of the Auchenorrhyncha of all European countries supplemented with critical notes (The Auchenorrhyncha – Homoptera of Europe). Janusz Nast is also the author of original descriptions of altogether 11 genera and 74 species and subspecies, including *Empoasca affinis*, *Macropsis najas* and *Conomelus lorifer debnlei* from Poland.

In 1976 he published a catalogue of the Auchenorrhyncha fauna of Poland, with information of the occurrence of all species in different regions of Poland. This book summarized all the available faunistic information from Poland and improved the knowledge on this group significantly; it contained numerous data on very rare relic species such as *Aphrophora similis* Leth. (the only known locality in Europe), *Addarus bellevoeyi* (Put.) and *Cicadetta podolica* (Eichw.) – one of two species of Polish Cicadidae.

One of his further interests was zoological nomenclature. He was one of the editors of the translation of the "International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1961; Polish edition - 1963)." In his late years he updated the nomenclature of the Polish Auchenorrhyncha, published in the 'Checklist of Animals of Poland' edited by J. Razowski.

In his honour, a number of Auchenorrhyncha taxa, including the Eocene genus *Nastlopiia* Szw. & Geb., with the subfamily Nastlopiinae, and the snail taxa *Nastia* Riedel and *Nastiinae* (*Zonitidae*), were named after him.

Some more important papers of Janusz Nast

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