

Obituary to Dr. Karlheinz POLITZAR

5th October 1938 – 20th October 2007



Dr. Karlheinz ('Heinz') POLITZAR was a great tropical veterinary surgeon and entomologist; he collected an enormous quantity of VARIOUS insects, especially Lepidoptera, between 1966 and 2002, while working professionally in numerous African countries, especially in West and East Africa. He did not have enough time to elaborate taxonomically his valuable material of about 120,000 specimens, but fortunately he bequeathed about 80,000 specimens to the Zoologische Staatssammlung München, which currently gives possibilities for many specialists for investigations and working out their special groups. Another part of about 40,000 specimens came into the hands of one of his friends, Karl KUCHLER, Munich, who undertook the preparation of all his specimens.

Heinz POLITZAR was born on 5th October 1938 in Munich. Ever since his boyhood he loved nature and butterflies and fishes especially were his hobbies; his holidays – in the memory of his sister Inge REDLBACHER – were always planned on the expectation of special butterflies or moths. And his desires at birthday: new drawers for his collection of course.

After the school-leaving examination at the Gisela Gymnasium in Munich in 1959 his calling was to become a veterinary surgeon. He graduated from the Veterinary Faculty of the Technical University (TU) of Munich (1959-64), and practiced his profession in rural areas of

BaVARIA at Altenmark at Dr. C. CLEMENTE. He married his wife Rita in 1965, and the following year, together with her, he started his long African career which lasted over 35 years.

In 1966 he began as field veterinarian for the animal health services of Mauritania, contracted by the European Development Fund, and until 1969 he participated at the international Rinderpest (cattle plague) eradication campaign there.

From 1970 to 1971, he worked for the German Technical Cooperation as public animal health advisor in Northern Nigeria. Later on he specialised in parasitology (protozoology) at the Tropical Institute (Bernard NOCHT) of Hamburg, and was seconded to the Kenyan Veterinary Laboratory at Kabete, where he participated at the elaboration of serological tests for tsetse-transmitted Trypanosomosis.

His career as tsetse entomologist, however, really started in 1973 in Nigeria at the occasion of a tsetse eradication campaign based on the application of terrestrial and aerial control techniques on a large scale. The following 12 years (1974-86) were mainly devoted to applied entomological research and Tsetse control in Burkina Faso.

Further stations of his career as tropical veterinary surgeon were Southern Somalia (1987-89), where he implemented a difficult tsetse control project within a large grazing area for dromedaries and other ruminants. Then Kenya in 1990 for a period of 7 years of collaboration with the African Union/Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources. He finished his professional career as regional coordinator of the East-African animal health project FITCA ("Farming in Tsetse Controlled Areas") in 2002.

Heinz POLITZAR lost his wife Rita in April 2000 in Nairobi. His great sociability and the hospitality of Rita made him a highly appreciated colleague who always had a warm welcome for his friends. The second author was testimony of that exceptional hospitality during several visits at the 'Annaberg' castle, his second home from 1974 to 2007 near Goldrain in southern Tyrol (northern Italy), where he had also a large number of good friends among local people. The POLITZARS did not avoid any effort or cost to let you feel 'king' on the castle, they offered marvellous food (often venison) and had no problems even to accommodate a family with many children.

His whole life was determined by his vocation as tropical veterinary surgeon for which he served with compassion and competence. All his colleagues in the countries he visited knew his great passion for butterflies and moths; he cultivated this hobby until late summer 2007 and his butterfly collection was his pride and joy, especially the

extremely rich collection of the genus *Charaxes*, collected over so many years by means of his special own constructions of bait traps. Several Lepidoptera species collected by him bear his name (see appendix); the POLITZAR Collection is still full of undescribed species, and there will surely be many other patronyms to follow in future. He used all his free time during his profession to collect and to study, both by day and at night.

Heinz POLITZAR was a member of the Münchner Entomologische Gesellschaft for exactly 50 years. For the donation of his wonderful scientific collection he received, in the year of 2004, the Ritter-von-Spix-Medaille of the BaVARIAN State Collection of Zoology (ZSM) (HAUSMANN, 2004).

Acknowledgement

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Literature

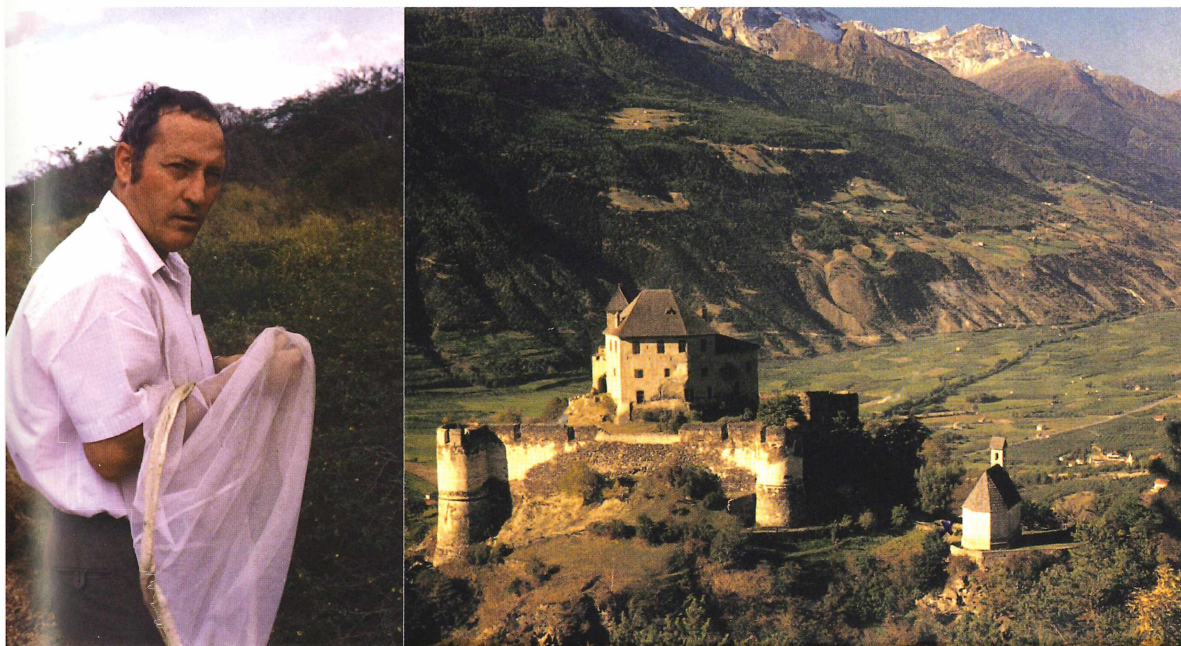
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Karlheinz POLITZAR, collecting moths 19 in Kenya: at sunrise after a long a exhausting night.

Patronyms

- Acontia torrefacta politzari* HACKER, LEGRAIN & FIBIGER, 2008 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana* **14**: 195.
Brevipecten politzari HACKER & FIBIGER, 2007 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **3**: 271.
Feliniopsis politzari HACKER & FIBIGER, 2007 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **3**: 67.
Oraesia politzari BEHOUNEK, HACKER & SPEIDEL, 2010 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **5**.
Pronofrontia ochrosia politzari HACKER & HAUSMANN, 2010 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **5**.
Thiacidas politzari HACKER & ZILLI, 2010 (Noctuoidea: Noctuidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **5**.
Mixocera politzari HAUSMANN, 1997 (Geometroidea: Geometridae). *Spixiana* **20** (3): 298.
Polyptychoides politzari DARGE & BASQUIN, 2005 (Sphingidae) *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Mulhouse* **61** (4): 64
Janthinisca politzari KIRIAKOFF 1979 (Noctuoidea)
Kroonia politzari LEHMANN 2010 (Cossoidea: Metarbelidae). *Esperiana Memoir* **5**.
Anthracophagella politzari DEEMING, 1981 (Diptera, Chloropidae)
Micragone cana politzari BASQUIN, 1989 (Saturniidae)
Tataka politzari DWORAKOWSKA, 1979 (Homoptera Cicadellidae)



Karlheinz POLITZAR, a life for Africa: as tropical veterinary surgeon and entomologist. The second home of this outstanding personality was Annaberg castle near Goldrain in Südtirol (northern Italy)

Overview of residences

years	country
IX 1966 - VIII 1969	Mauritania
II 1970 - XI 1971	N Nigeria
XI 1971 - IV 1972	Germany, GTZ
V 1972 - XI 1973	Kenya (Kabete)
X 1973 - X 1974	Nigeria
X 1974 - V 1986	Burkina Faso
V 1986 - VI 1987	Germany
VI 1987 - XI 1989	S Somalia
XII 1989 - III 1990	Germany
III 1990 - III 1997	Kenya
III 1999 - VII 2002	Kenya
I 2003 - X 2007	Germany