

Braueria 44

Lunz, April 2017

Dear Trichopterologist,

I was informed that, as usual, some copies of the last number of Braueria were lost in the post. It is impossible to send them by registered mail, so I have no control whether they arrived safely or not. It is in your own interest to inform me in time whether you have got your copy or not. Normally I send it out about March/April, so your copy may arrive not later than about June/July even in countries with poor postal services.

You may remember our colleague François Vaillant who contributed several important studies on caddisflies from France and Algeria between 1951 and 1984 and who was present at our Symposia in Lunz 1974, Perugia 1980, Clemson 1983 and Lyon 1986. We had no news from him for a long time, and we wondered where his collection with several holotypes, and his library might be. Much to my surprise I got a letter by Madame Vaillant, dated 2 September 2016, telling me that she and her husband are still living in their house at the old address in Montbonnot near Grenoble. François Vaillant is now 96 and, considering his age, in acceptable health. His library is in the Museum of Grenoble, and his collection is now in the Musée de Zoologie, Lausanne, Switzerland.

A noteworthy observation of mine: Hydropsyche contubernalis is a well-known and common species which lives in large and smaller rivers and is distributed over almost all Europe and in Siberia. You may know my article on its variability in Braueria 35:41 (2008). Together with Steffen Pauls, we want to find out whether their molecular genetics may confirm the „forms“ borealis, masovica and iranica. I knew that contubernalis was very common in the River Danube, together with Hydropsyche bulgaromanorum, and I tried to collect some samples from three sites on the Danube here in Austria. Unexpectedly, there were plenty of bulgaromanorum in the light trap, but not a single specimen of contubernalis ! We know that several alien crustaceans were introduced in the Danube during the last decades and these are devouring everything, but why should they eat only contubernalis larvae and not those of bulgaromanorum? H. contubernalis is not extinct in other rivers in Austria where I got samples from River March and from Carinthia. I would be pleased if you could write me your own observations on this species. By the way, Steffen and I would be glad if you could collect for us in the coming season some contubernalis samples from any countries.

Our next Trichoptera Symposium will be held during 3 – 9 June 2018 in Surat Thani, southern Thailand, in a marvellous tropical region, and is organised by Pongsak Laudee. I gladly look forward to seeing many of you again, as I was absent from the last two meetings in Vladivostok and New Brunswick for health reasons.

With best wishes,



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