

In memoriam Dr. Hans Ulrich (1934–2017)

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On May 24, 2017, the long-term curator of the Diptera section of Museum Koenig, Dr. Hans Ulrich, passed away at the age of 83 years. With this obituary, we want to commemorate and celebrate his life and his scientific activities.

Hans Ulrich was born as the third child of the former Reichsbank inspector and later Bankrat (retired) Ferdinand Ernst Hans Hugo Ulrich and his wife Matilde Margarethe Marie Ulrich, born Löllke, on July 22, 1934 at Stendal, Saxony-Anhalt. In 1938 the family moved to Ludwigsburg in Baden-Württemberg. In December 1944, an aerial bomb attack destroyed most of the household. They moved to relatives at Nordhausen (Harz) where in two new aerial attacks in April 1945 the family lost again all they had. Shortly after the end of World War II and before the occupation of Thuringia by the Soviet army they returned to Württemberg and found a first quarter at Mundelsheim on the Neckar, then in Ludwigsburg and finally in Stuttgart.

Hans Ulrich entered basic school in spring 1940 and moved to high school in summer 1944. He finished his maturation at the Friedrich Schiller High School in Ludwigsburg. He started his university studies in biology, chemistry and geology at the Technical University Stuttgart and at the University of Tübingen in summer semester 1953 and finished in spring 1960 with an examination (state examen) for school teachers. On March 12, 1962 he received his doctoral degree with a histological dissertation on hippoboscid flies (Diptera: Hippoboscidae), at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Technical University of Stuttgart, under the tutorship of Prof. Dr. Otto Pflugfelder (1904–1994).

From May 1957 to April 1962, with one year interruption, Hans Ulrich served the Zoological Institute of the Technical University Stuttgart and the nearby Agricultural University Hohenheim. Subsequently, from May 1962 to June 1963, he became part of a team at the Landesanstalt für Pflanzenschutz (State institute for plant protection) within a focus program of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Science Foundation, DFG) called “Integrative plant protection”. Next station of his career was a temporary employment as a scientific assistant at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart, Department of Phylogenetic Research, from July 1963 to December 1965. These two and a half years

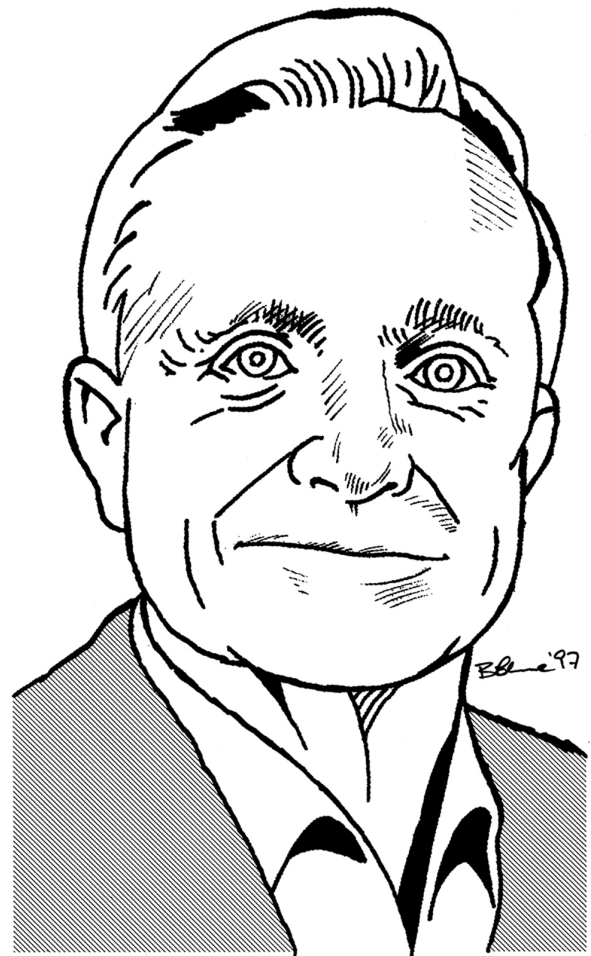


Fig. 1. Dr. Hans Ulrich (Sketch drawn by Peter Böhme).

were particularly important for him, since he proved to be the only assistant of the world-famous phylogeneticist Prof. Willi Hennig (1913–1976), and he became strongly influenced by Hennigian thinking for all his further scientific work.

A further station on his way was a temporary employment, within a DFG sponsored project at the Institut für Biologische Schädlingsbekämpfung (Institute for biological combat against noxious organisms) in Darmstadt, combatting the noxious tortricid moth *Cydia pomonella* Linnaeus, 1758 (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae). And only

thereafter, being employed again by the DFG at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Zoological State Collection Munich), he finally found his long-term special field of research, viz. the taxonomy and anatomy of two dipteran families: Dolichopodidae and Empididae.

In December 1971, he entered the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig as a curator of dipterology and took responsibility for a collection which had been brought to international reputation by his predecessor Dr. Bernhard Mannheims (1909–1971), mainly in respect to blepharicerids, tipulids and limoniids. Internationally important was also the collection of phorid flies. Until the employment of a curator of hymenopterology in 1986, Hans Ulrich took also care of the Hymenoptera collection. In 1974 he became a preliminary civil servant which was extended to permanency in 1977.

Since 1974 he had an own assistant in his section, Mrs. Christa Große-Streuer, who helped him in all respects including his activity as editor of two ZFMK journals “Bonner zoologische Beiträge” (Festschrift H. E. Wolters 1975 and volumes 31–35, 1980–1984) and “Bonner zoologische Monographien” (nos 12–16, 1979–1982).

Hans Ulrich worked as a curator until 1999, and then continued as a volunteer until about 2012, his visits became rare. He spent quite some money on fossil Diptera, most of which he donated to the museum’s collections. He also donated his books, and finally his house. He was a really generous curator.

Taxon names coined by H. Ulrich and colleagues

- Amphithalassius* Ulrich, 1991
Amphithalassius latus Ulrich, 1991
Amphithalassius piricornis Ulrich, 1991
Microphorella similis Brooks & Ulrich, 2012
Plesiothalassius flavus Ulrich, 1991
Plesiothalassius natalensis Ulrich, 1991
 (all Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

Taxa named after H. Ulrich

- Ulrichophora* Brown, 2007 (Diptera: Phoridae)
Metopina ulrichi Disney, 1979 (Diptera: Phoridae)
Microphorella ulrichi Gatt, 2003
 (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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