

## Emmanuel de Bros (1914–1997)



The 25th March 1997 Emmanuel de Bros, an outstanding member of the SEL, passed away. Those who knew him will remember him as an enthusiastic friend with a good sense of humour!

Emmanuel de Bros was born the 3th February 1914 in Geneva, where he spent his childhood. After college he made an apprenticeship in a bank and got his university degree in law at the Geneva University. His first job was with the International Red Cross (IKRK), followed by a second with the Swiss military insurance. In 1946 he moved to Basle where he worked as a

scientific interpreter for CIBA and later for CIBA-Geigy until his early retirement in 1974.

Since his childhood Männi de Bros had a keen interest for butterflies and moths. In 1929, he was accepted as “youth member” to join the “Société Lépidoptérologique de Genève”, where he was introduced into systematics, nomenclature and biogeography by the well-known lepidopterists M. Rehfous, J. Romieux and C. Lacreuze. When moving to Basle, he joined the local entomological cercle there, where he participated regularly (even in early 1997!) at the meetings, excursions and other manifestations of the Society. His main interest concerned the Central European fauna and, in particular, the regions of Geneva and Basle, as well as the Valais and Ticino. As a keen mountaineer he was particularly fond of the alpine fauna. In the early 80’s he stimulated the search for *Psodos wehrlii*, and participated on the first excursion to the “Mettelhorn” (3400 m). Within the Lepidoptera it was the Macro- and the “mountable” Microlepidoptera which he studied. In over 60 years he built up a large collection which constitutes an important base for faunistic research. In addition to numerous excursions to his main collecting sites, he had several occasions for going on field trips to exotic countries where he discovered some undescribed species. In his entertaining manner he reported on these trips in talks and articles (see references in de Bros, 1993). Besides the Lepidoptera collection, he built up with the same competence a remarkable scientific library containing in addition to many books and journals also a large quantity of reprints. Since his retirement he worked as honorary curator of the Lepidoptera collection in the Natural History Museum, Basle. He also built up the small collection for identification purposes of the Entomological Society, Basle, which he curated until his death. As one of his most important achievements certainly his capacity as an editor has to be acknowledged here: *Nota lepidopterologica* from 1980 (volume 3) to 1990 (volume 13) and *Mitteilungen der Entomologischen Gesellschaft Basel* from 1961 (volume 11) to 1983 (volume 33).

Due to his open and friendly character, Männi de Bros had a large circle of entomological friends and acquaintances. He knew the specialities of the various colleagues and knew whom

to ask for help with this or that "difficult insect". Particularly young persons and beginners received a lot through his help, and his enthusiasm was contagious. It is so that my first encounter with Männi de Bros took place in 1966, when, as a boy, I had difficulties to identify some butterflies. He showed me how to proceed for getting good identifications and how to build up a collection.

His scientific work comprises some 100 papers. A list of his publications up to 1992 was published in this journal (de Bros, 1993). Here the titles published from 1993 onwards are listed. Two autobiographies are worth mentioning in which Männi de Bros describes his life and his interests (de Bros, 1980, 1993). In the latter paper he also mentions that his collection and library will go to the Natural History Museum of Neuchâtel, except for the "exotic" material which is already integrated in the collection of the Natural History Museum, Basle, and each a small local collection which will be deposited in the Natural History Museums of Geneva and Sion.

#### List of publications by E. de Bros since 1993

1993. Lepidoptera collecting in Kenya and Tanzania. — *Tropical Lepidoptera* 4: 16–25.
1993. Expédition du C.I.E.R.J. dans le Haut-Jura méridional (Pays de Gex): Quatrième expédition: "Sur Thoiry" Crêt de la Neige 11–20 juillet 1988. — *Mémoires du CLERJ* 1, Tome III.
1993. *Eucarphia vinetella* Fabricius, 1787 — une Phycitinae nouvelle pour la Suisse (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae). — *Bull.romand Ent.* 11: 61–63.
1993. Les Microlépidoptères des Tattes de Thoiry, Pays de Gex (Ain, France). — *Bull.romand Ent.* 11: 79–92.
1993. *Eucarphia vinetella* (Fabricius, 1787). Une erreur de détermination. — *Bull.romand Ent.* 11: 105–107.
1993. Coups de filet dans le Haut-Atlas en Avril. — *Bull.Soc.ent.Mulhouse* (Jan.–Mars 1993): 8–12.
1993. Auf Expedition in Peru: Kultur, Trekking und Lepidoptera, 6. Juli–4. August 1979. — *Mitt.ent.Ges.Basel* 43(4): 146–162.
1993. Willy Eglin-Dederding (1911–1985) — der Mensch, Erinnerungen eines Freundes. — *Mitt.ent.Ges.Basel* 43(4): 169–176.
1994. Corrigenda zum "Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Lepidopteren-Fauna von Antalya und des lykischen Taurus in der Südwesttürkei". — *Mitt.ent.Ges.Basel* 44(2): 74–75.
1994. In Memoriam Edwin Denz. — *Mitt.ent.Ges.Basel* 44(3/4): 165.

1995. Les limites de répartition de *Pyrgus malvae* L. et *malvoides* Elw. & Edw. entre St Maurice et Martigny (Lep. Hesperiiidae). — *Bull.romand Ent.* 13: 5–7. (second author, with P. WILTHSHIRE).
1996. Catalogue des Lépidoptères du bassin genevois (5): Microlépidoptères 1. — *Bull.romand Ent.* 14: 39–50. (first author, with D. BURCKHARDT and J. WÜEST).
1996. Eine neue Noctuidenart (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Cucullinae) aus Argentinien mit Bemerkungen zur Gattung *Andesia* Hampson. — *Mitt. ent. Ges. Basel* 46(2/3): 46–51. (second author, with A. ANGULO).
1996. Erinnerungen an ein Trekking in Patagonien und Feuerland mit Sammeln von Lepidopteren. — *Mitt.ent.Ges.Basel* 46(2/3): 52–67.
1996. *Satyrus ferula* (Fabricius, 1793) du Valais (Suisse): durée extraordinaire-ment longue de l'éclosion de la chenille au stade L1 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Satyrinae). — *Linn.belg.* 15(8): 315–316. (second author, with D. JUTZELER).
1996. Elevage de *Coenonympha corinna elbana* (Staudinger, 1901) du Monte Argentario (Toscane, Italie) avec explication géologique de l'aire de répartition du complexe *corinna* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Satyrinae). — *Linn.belg.* 15(8): 332–347. (third author, with D. JUTZELER and H. BIERMANN).
1997. Catalogue des Lépidoptères du bassin genevois (6): Microlépidoptères 2. — *Bull.romand Ent.* 15: 21–46. (first author, with D. BURCKHARDT and J. WÜEST).

## Literatur

- BROS, E. DE, 1980. Gesellschaftsnachrichten. Mitglieder der EGL stellen sich vor: Emmanuel de Bros. *Ent.Ber.Luzern* 4: 65–69.
- BROS, E. DE, 1993. Autobiographie und Autobiographie. *Nota lepid.* 15 (1992): 184–194.

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