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Obituary for Wolfgang Schacht

(1939–2011)

Wolfgang Schacht passed away on April 10th 2011 at the age of 71. He had been employed as a museum technician at the Diptera Section of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM) for nearly 40 years, and after his official retirement had continued as a volunteer for an additional 7 years. During all this time he rendered outstanding services to dipterology in Germany and also in Taiwan. More comprehensive obituaries, including lists of taxon names and publications, can be found in *Nachrichtenblatt der Bayerischen Entomologen* 60 (3/4): 100–106, as well as in *Studia Dipterologica* 17 (1–2): 3–11.

Wolfgang Schacht was a quintessential veteran of contemporary German dipterology. Pragmatic, capable, diligent, reliable and enormously competent he not only took care of the organization and curation of the Diptera collections at the ZSM, but also contributed substantially to the surveying and cataloging of the fly faunas of Germany and Taiwan. Large parts of the ZSM's Diptera holdings stem from his indefatigable and extraordinarily successful collecting activities, especially as concerns material from central and southern Europe, but also from parts of Africa, Taiwan and Ecuador. Moreover, he maintained a network of contacts and collaborations that has resulted in sizable additions to the ZSM Diptera collections as well as in 72 publications. Dedicated especially to the Tabanidae he authored or coauthored descriptions of 14 Diptera species new to science. At least 147 new species were described by other authors based on type material procured by him, and at least 29 of these were named after him. In addition he edited the journal "Entomofauna" since its beginnings in 1980.

Born on November 10th 1939 in Hannover, Wolfgang Schacht was hired as a technician at ZSM in 1965. In the Diptera Section, he first worked with curator Friedrich Kühnhorn and then, from 1976 onwards, with Friedrich Reiss. In the latter cooperation, Wolfgang was entrusted with most of the curation duties for the many fly families other than Reiss'



Fig. 1. Wolfgang Schacht at his workplace at ZSM, April 2000. Photo: M. Kotrba.

specialty, the Chironomidae, and he kept fulfilling equally wide-ranging responsibilities during his last years of employment after Marion Kotrba was hired as curator in 2000. Even after his retirement he faithfully stayed with the department as a tremendously active volunteer, committing himself to, e.g. time-consuming revisionary rearrangements of the holdings, and even assisting novel research programs such as the Barcoding Fauna Bavarica Project. To the present day nearly every insect drawer, alcohol jar or other element of our collections vaults bears witness to Wolfgang's work.

On behalf of all colleagues, we want to take this opportunity to thank him one more time for all his immeasurable work and services, and sincerely wish for peace to his soul.

Marion Kotrba and Martin Spies

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