

6th International Symposium on Trichoptera

Łódź – Zakopane, Poland, 11-16th September 1989.

At the 5th International Symposium on Trichoptera in Lyon in 1986, we decided to accept the invitation from Poland, rather than that from Sweden, for the 1989 symposium. We felt it was time to meet in Eastern Europe. The result has been gratifying, with 19 participants from countries of the Eastern Bloc, including 3 from USSR and 3 from DDR, the first time these two countries had taken part. Altogether we had 79 participants from 26 countries; it was disappointing that I was the sole representative from Britain.

The Convener was Cezary Tomaszewski of Uniwersytet Łódzki, where we had a concentrated succession of papers and poster demonstrations for the first three days. The next day was taken up with the 200-mile bus journey to Zakopane in the beautiful Tatra Mountains close to the frontier with Czechoslovakia. Here we had another two half-day sessions of papers and a collecting trip in a mountain valley. Some people went home from here or from Krakow, but most of us were taken back to Łódź en route for Warsaw.

Of the 79 communications, 52 were presented as 20-minute lectures, and the other 27 as poster demonstrations, which were well displayed in a wide corridor behind the lecture theatre. This was an acceptable balance, and meant that we were not confined to the theatre for too long. We had relaxing 40-minute breaks, morning and afternoon, in an attractive buffet with ample provision of coffee, tea and soft drinks, with buns and cakes and even apples and plums! This was a great improvement on the traditional break, standing up in a noisy huddle in the corner of a laboratory or canteen.

As in former symposia, there were no parallel sessions; this arrangement avoids clashes and maintains a sense of unity. We had the usual preponderance of papers on ecology, distribution and taxonomy, with smaller numbers of life histories, fossils, physiology and morphology. Among the lesser known areas reported upon were Burma, Thailand, Taiwan, Venezuela and Mexico, and we had papers from two intrepid ladies who had collected caddis separately and on their own in the Malay Archipelago and in Sabah. There were reports of caddis predators of *Simulium* larvae in South Africa

and in Mali, and the return of caddis to the polluted lower reaches of the Rhine. A scanning electron micrograph from my own contribution features as the cover photograph of this issue of *Antenna*. The *Proceedings* should appear in 1990 in the same format as for the previous symposia.

The organization of the Symposium by Cezary Tomaszewski and his team was superb, with compact booklets covering the programme and abstracts. We were met at Warsaw airport by a University bus for the 80-mile drive to Łódź, and taken back there at the end of the week. With the journey to Zakopane this made a total approaching 600 miles, on good roads with very little traffic. It was interesting to see the pattern of small farms on narrow strips of land, with all their cattle tethered. We stayed in first-class hotels in Łódź and Zakopane, with everything provided. In fact, having paid our registration fees beforehand in dollars, there was no need to spend anything, and in any case there appeared to be little to buy in the shops. We were indeed privileged with our ample and well-prepared meals, and realised that we were living at a higher standard than the majority of people in Poland. We had a fascinating tour, with very good guides, of the ancient centre of Krakow, which the courage and initiative of the Poles saved from demolition by the occupying Nazis in the closing days of the Second World War. We had an entertaining party, after our collecting trip in the Tatra Mountains, in a field where we toasted sausages and bread on long sticks at enormous bonfires, with crates of beer and soft drinks provided. We then returned to a splendid dinner in our comfortable hotel. Our 'accompanying persons' had an interesting programme of trips, which included a European bison preserve and the birthplace of Chopin at Zelazowa Wola, which is a beautifully preserved museum.

It was altogether a memorable and worthwhile meeting, and now we look forward to the 1992 Symposium at the University of Umea in Sweden, and to 1995 at the University of Minnesota.

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