



**Lifetime Achievement Awardees: Peter Zwick,
Lidija Zhiltzova and Claudio Froehlich**

**Laudationes and Presentations
of the Lifetime Achievement Award to
DR. CLAUDIO FROEHLICH
and
DR. LIDIJA ZHILTZOVA
read by Peter Zwick on behalf of the
International Association of Plecopterists**

CLAUDIO GILBERTO FROEHLICH

During our field trip, we heard of the lamentable fate of the Quilmes Indians; they lost their independence and were successively ruled by the Inca, the Jesuits, and the Spanish government, until they were eventually expelled from their native country, or committed suicide to avoid slavery. In connection with the acquisition of overseas colonies by the

various European powers, natural history specimens, both animals and plants, landed in European collections. When C. H. BURMEISTER (1839) first recognized the stoneflies as an independent insect order for which he created the name Plecoptera, among the 26 species he knew from all over the world there were also *Semblis gracilis* (now *Tupiperla gracilis*) and a few other Brazilian Plecoptera. The synopsis by F. J. PICTET (1841) covered a world fauna of almost 130 species, including a good share of South American taxa. Subsequently, knowledge of South American Plecoptera increased only slowly, by occasional studies (e.g., BLANCHARD, 1851; GERSTAECKER, 1873; MABILLE, 1891).

Around the turn of the century, a new era of Plecoptera taxonomy was opened by pioneer papers based on the study of genitalia of European specimens preserved in fluid (MORTON, 1894; KEMPNY, 1898, 1899; KLAPALEK, 1896). Unfortunately, the first two authors discontinued working on stoneflies, and KLAPALEK in his numerous subsequent works never lived up to the standards that he had vividly advocated. Instead, he, ENDERLEIN (several papers between 1905 and 1909) and mainly NAVAS (numerous papers between 1900 and 1936) reverted to superficial descriptions of pinned specimens. These authors flooded the South American and World literature with inadequate descriptions raising only the number of nominal species, but not really increasing knowledge of the animals.

Adequate taxonomic studies of Plecoptera began again to be published in the late twenties and thirties, e.g., by DESPAX in France, and by FESTA in Italy. After the war, interest in stoneflies increased significantly, culminating in the First International Symposium on Plecoptera organized by the late J. AUBERT at Lausanne, in 1956. Two of the participants, J. AUBERT (1956) and mainly J. ILLIES (several papers between 1958 and 1977) published important studies on South American Plecoptera.

P. BRINCK indirectly made an equally valuable contribution to the study of South American stoneflies by training a young Brazilian scientist, CLAUDIO GILBERTO FROEHLICH. Claudio had started his career with work on terrestrial planarians, under the late E. MARCUS, at Sao Paulo. I first met Claudio at the Abisko Plecoptera Symposium (1968), when he had completed some studies on Swedish Plecoptera, and a very interesting and well illustrated one on Brazilian Gripopterygidae. I hoped that more papers on the Brazilian fauna would follow quickly, but CLAUDIO worked as a limnologist and about ten years elapsed until he published again on the order. However, then another study followed, and another one, and one more, and now CLAUDIO is in full swing and is regularly producing excellent papers on Brazilian Plecoptera, dealing with one group after the other in a systematic way. About 20 papers are published today, and I know of some others in print, including a revision of the difficult and diverse genus *Tupiperla*. CLAUDIO also introduced students to the study of Plecoptera and through his activities, a large part of the South American Subcontinent is now well studied, by a resident South American student; much in the way in which New Zealand has become "MCLELLAN'S LAND", south-east Brazil has become "FROEHLICH'S AUTONOMOUS STONEFLY REPUBLIC".

The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLECOPTERISTS recognizes and honours CLAUDIO'S long continued successful work; it is my great pleasure to present CLAUDIO with the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, wishing him health and many years of continued work on these fascinating animals!

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LIDIJA ANDREJEVNA ZHILTZOVA

When I started my thesis on the anatomy and phylogeny of the Plecoptera under the late Prof. ILLIES, in April 1965, the first specimens he gave me to dissect were large larvae of the South American *Notoperla archiplatae*. He made all his collection available to me, but I soon found that there was very little well preserved European and other Holarctic material suitable for dissection; therefore, I planned on collections of my own. I started looking at literature, for a general overview of available information but also specifically to learn what I might expect to collect when and where.

Some of the most splendidly illustrated papers I came across were in Cyrillic script; I had to consult a dictionary to read the author's name: LIDIJA ANDREJEVNA ZHILTZOVA. Most of the fascinating taxa described in her papers were from the Caucasus, and

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