

Plecoptera research in Italy has a long-standing tradition. Occasional Italian Plecoptera were dealt with in the older literature, but already in the 1930ies, a resident Italian student, ALDO FESTA, started working on the group. It became quickly clear that the Italian fauna includes a good share of endemic species, as one could expect for a Mediterranean peninsula which was for much of the Pleistocene largely separated from the rest of Europe by Alpine glaciers. At the same time, many unglaciated areas remained in Italy, both at the southern edge of the Alps and elsewhere, in the Apennines. Much of this fascinating fauna became only known when the late JACQUES AUBERT, Lausanne, began visiting Italy, and published important studies on the stoneflies of the peninsula. CARLO CONSIGLIO of Rome also worked on Italian stoneflies for about a decade and a half, beginning in the mid fifties. A special interest of his were the large Mediterranean islands of, or close to, Italy. His summarizing list of the Italian fauna, in 1967, named over 120 Italian species.

It might seem that there could not be much left to study for Italian stonefly taxonomists and faunists. However, ELISABETTA RAVIZZA DEMATTEIS and CARLALBERTO RAVIZZA have shown us differently. Although trained biologists, their interest in this insect group was entirely one of amateurs, in the best, original meaning of the word. Once they had taken an interest in the Plecoptera, they continued studying them for pure love of these insects, in their spare time, at their personal expense, on top of different professional obligations.

ELISABETTA and CARLALBERTO have now worked on Plecoptera for almost thirty years, and they keep carrying on. The two work from their home town, Milano, and accordingly their focus was always on the northern Apennines and the northwest corner of Italy with its southern Alpine ranges. Through their work this turned out to be a most interesting region that harbours a number of locally restricted endemic species, on former nunataks. This region also includes areas where species that postglacially return from different refuge areas to now again ice-free places meet, and

where most intriguing and fascinating contact zones between close relatives form.

The fairly large part of Italy where the RAVIZZAS work is certainly the best studied area in the country. Its Plecoptera fauna, its seasonal and altitudinal distribution, and its habitat requirements are known better than anywhere else. I remember with great pleasure joint field trips to several sites where I profited from the amazing knowledge of my guides what could be found when and where! Their knowledge is now generally available in the numerous papers which ELISABETTA RAVIZZA DEMATTEIS and CARLALBERTO RAVIZZA published over many years. Their bibliography below is really impressive evidence of a lifetime dedication to our science.

At some time in the fairly recent past there were hopes to profit even more of their experience because publication of a comprehensive Italian stonefly fauna written by you, dear CARLALBERTO, was intended. Unfortunately, this approach was so far unsuccessful. At least some of your knowledge became available, for example in synopses of the Leuctridae of major European mountains, the Alps and the Pyrenees, in cooperation withour friend GILLES VINÇON, of Grenoble. I hope that the monograph of the Italian Leuctridae of which you shared out manuscript copies at this meeting, as well as other synoptic papers on the Italian fauna by you may eventually be properly published!

The Standing Committee for the International Symposia on Plecoptera voted unanimously in favour of the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for ELISABETTA RAVIZZA DEMATTEIS and CARLALBERTO RAVIZZA. It is my privilege and great pleasure to hand it to you tonight, before many of your fellow Italian stonefly students. I thank you for your excellent contributions to the study of Plecoptera, and wish you health and vigour to carry on, and enjoy future work on the group!

Peter Zwick

**The Plecoptera Publications of Drs. Carlalberto
and Elizabetta Dematteis Ravizza**
(listed in chronological order)

- Ravizza C., 1974 - Su alcuni reperti di Insetti Plecotteri attivi come immagine nella stagione invernale. *Atti Acc. sci. Torino*, 8: 211-217. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1974 - Ricerche ecologico-faunistiche sui Plecotteri della valle Staffora (Appennino lombardo) (Plecoptera). *Boll. Mus. civ. St. nat. Verona*, 1: 195-248. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1975 - Note faunistiche e tassonomiche sui Plecotteri primaverili della Sardegna (Plecoptera). *Boll. Soc. sarda Sci. nat.*, 15: 3-13. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1975 - Faunistica, ecologia e fenologia immaginale dei Plecotteri reofili nella val Brembana. Con descrizione di una specie nuova (Plecoptera). *Redia*, 56: 271-373. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1975 - Una specie nuova di Nemouridae dell'Appennino settentrionale (Plecoptera). *Fragm. Ent.*, 12: 127-132. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1976 - Ricerche ecologico-faunistiche sui Plecotteri del torrente Erro (Appennino Ligure) (Plecoptera). *Boll. Museo civ. St. nat. Verona*, 3 : 331-361. (in Italian, English summary)
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- Ravizza C., 1977 - Note su *Protonemura elisabethae* Rav., con descrizione della ninfa (Plecoptera). *Boll. Soc. ent. ital.*, 109: 75-77. (in Italian, English summary)
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- Ravizza C. & Ravizza Dematteis E., 1978 - Mountain brooklet stonefly-fauna of Northern Apennines (Plecoptera). *Atti Soc. ital. Sci. nat.*, 119: 229-242. (in English, Italian summary)
- Ravizza C., 1978 - Una specie nuova di Plecottero dei monti del Biellese: *Leuctra brevipennis* n. sp. (Plecoptera Leuctridae). *Redia*, 61: 251-257. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C. & Ravizza Dematteis E., 1979 - Un nuovo Plecottero delle Alpi Pennine: *Nemoura pesarinii* n. sp. (Plecoptera Nemouridae). *Atti Soc .it. Sci. nat.. Museo civ. Stor. nat. Milano*, 120: 3-10. (in Italian, English summary)

- Ravizza C. & Ravizza Dematteis E., 1979 - I Plecotteri del corso medio-inferiore del torrente Nure (Appennino Piacentino) (Plecoptera). *Natura*, 70 : 193-217. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C. & Ravizza Dematteis E., 1980 - Su un raro endemismo delle Alpi Pennine: *Leuctra festai* Aubert (Plecoptera Leuctridae). *Natura*, 71: 83-91. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C. & Ravizza Dematteis E., 1980 - *Nemoura oropensis* n. sp., endemica dei monti del Biellese (Alpi Pennine). *Natura*, 71: 92-100. (in Italian, English summary)
- Ravizza C., 1980 - Le *Leuctra* italiane del gruppo *boreoni-schmidi* (Plecoptera Leuctridae). *Boll. Soc. ent. ital.*, 112: 140-146 (in Italian, English summary)
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The Ravizzas and presenter Zwick

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