

OBITUARY

HEINRICH GREVEN

A short biography of H. GREVEN (born: Jan 1, 1894, Süchteln nr. Krefeld, German Federal Republic; deceased: Sept. 30, 1978, Viersen nr. Krefeld; schoolmaster and hydrobiologist) is followed by a list of his odonatological publications (1967-1979), all of which are devoted to the local fauna of the Lower Rhine region.



On September 30, 1978, Heinrich Greven passed away after a long and utmost active life deeply devoted to teaching as a schoolmaster and as a hydrobiologist. He was one of those non-professional but seriously working local collectors, whose fundamental contributions to our knowledge of the local fauna cannot be honoured adequately.

HEINRICH GREVEN* was born in 1894 as one of numerous children of a weaver. After school education he became a student at the training college for primary school teachers. His career included appointments as a headmaster and later as an inspector of schools in his home town, where he had spent most of his life. He was vitally interested in all aspects of biology, and it is most notable that all his knowledge in this field was self-taught. As an amateur entomologist, Greven was in the first place a keen collector and an accurate observer in the field. He concentrated on Ephemeroptera, Rhynchota and Apidae and became a recognized local authority on these groups, but he collected dragonflies as well and exchanged letters with the late ERICH SCHMIDT and other odonatologists, communicating his observations.

Though not very prolific in writing, he provided a rich source of

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information and advice to those who accompanied him during the innumerable excursions he led, or to those who attended his lectures in the courses in hydrobiology that have been performed at the biological station "Limnologische Station Niederrhein". He was one of the early members of the "Hydrobiologische Vereinigung für den Niederrhein", the society by which the said biological station had been founded in the 1920's. After the Second World War this station was run by the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.

Throughout his professional life and even after retirement he was an extremely active member of, and often delivering lectures before, at least five local societies of biology and natural history. Greven's knowledge of the arthropod fauna and the local flora was far more extensive than his publications indicate. His enthusiasm for the living nature became particularly evident on occasion of his field excursions, when in an inspiring manner he shared his wide knowledge with others. Many will remember him for the modest and obliging disposition he revealed on those occasions.

Among his papers four are devoted to the local dragonfly fauna. Since OTTO LE ROI he was the only one ever to collect dragonflies for a series of years in the immediate surroundings of Krefeld and in the more extended area between Krefeld and the Dutch border. Nowadays his thorough investigations are of great value in estimating the alterations in the local aquatic arthropod fauna composition that have taken place in the last decades.

ODONATOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF H. GREVEN

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Portrait on p. 69 dated about 1958.

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