

**PROFESSOR Dr GERHARD JURZITZA:
A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

H. HEIDEMANN

Au in den Buchen 66, D-76645 Bruchsal, Germany

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A brief biography and appreciation of the work of Dr G. Jurzitza (born 30 Nov. 1929), Professor Emeritus of the University of Karlsruhe, Charter Member of *Societas Internationalis Odonatologica* and one of the leading European odonatologists, is followed by his odonatological bibliography (1959-1998; 139 titles). Most of his works are related to the European and South American fauna, mostly in the fields of faunistics, taxonomy, ecology and behaviour. The list of taxa he has introduced in Odonata, and a bibliography of his odon. photographic work are also included.

GERHARD JURZITZA, the doyen of German odonatology, was born on 30 November 1929, in Ostrava (formerly Schlesisch-Ostrau), Czechoslovakia, into the family of Franz Jurzitza, a professional accountant, from whom he probably inherited his sense of precision and punctuality and his ability for the utmost careful observation of minute, possibly obscured and hardly perceptible detail – a great asset in a naturalist's career.

Peaceful primary school years (1935-1939) were followed by violence brought about by the Second World War, in consequence of which his secondary school education in Ostrava (1939-1944) was interrupted and the family expatriated to Germany, where he continued and completed grammar school studies at the "Realgymnasium" in Ettlingen nr Karlsruhe (1947-1951), and matriculated in Biology at the former Technical College ("Technische Hochschule"), now the University of Karlsruhe and at the University of Heidelberg.

During 1955-1959 he prepared his doctoral dissertation under Professor Dr Hans KÜHLWEIN, at the Karlsruhe Department of Botany, entitled "*Physiologische Untersuchungen an Cerambycidensymbionten*", and graduated in 1959.

Save for a 2-year interruption at Braunschweig Institute of Pharmacology, Dr Jurzitza continued his affiliation with the Karlsruhe Department of Botany through-



Fig. 1. At home, after the 13th International Symposium of Odonatology, August 1995. Left to right: Mrs Sumiko Inoue, Mrs Margarethe Jurzitza, Dr G. Jurzitza and K. Inoue, the current President of S.I.O. – (Photo K. Inoue)

out his professional career. In 1969 he habilitated with the dissertation, “*Mikrobiologische und ernährungsphysiologische Studien an der Symbiose der Anobiidae (Coleoptera) mit hefeartigen Pilzen*”. In 1973 he was appointed Associate Professor, in 1979 he was awarded full Professorship, and in 1992 he retired from the University of Karlsruhe, after having concluded his professional career with the publication of his handbook, “*Anatomie der Samenpflanzen*” (Thieme, Stuttgart, 1987).

In 1954 he married Margarethe DEMBICKY; two daughters and a son arose from this union. As a token of thanks and in lasting recognition of her understanding for and support of his odonatological work, *Castoraeschna margarethae* (1979c) dwells somewhere in the dragonfly world of Minas Gerais in Brazil.

Dr Jurzitza’s botanical research interests were continuously focused on insect/plant relationships in the field of symbiosis. Dragonflies never had a place in his laboratory and University office, but for more than 40 years they have played, in one or other way, a principal role in all his “free time” activities. It was an incidental encounter with a teneral *Aeshna cyanea*, in remote 1955, that was decisive; the book of Hans SCHIEMENZ, “*Die Libellen unserer Heimat*”, served as the initial source of information on the newly discovered dragonfly landscape, and Erich SCHMIDT, the Nestor of German Odonatology, verified his first specimen identifications. In the 1950s, the world was large and odonatologists few; it was not easy to trace names and addresses, and it was difficult to open and maintain communication.

Dr Jurzitza commenced his active involvement in odonatology in the same way most entomologists of his generation did: he started a thorough exploration of the

fauna on his doorstep (e.g. 1959, 1960b, 1963, 1964a, 1965b), and brought together a reference collection, investing much time in the search for an optimal specimen preservation method (1960a, 1961a). Among his early associates were Kurt KORMANN (1960b), Alois BILEK (cf. 1975a), Karl Friedrich BUCHHOLZ, Paul MÜNCHBERG (cf. 1975d), Paul-André ROBERT, Douglas ST. QUENTIN and Otto-Paul WENGER (cf. 1982d). With the reprints of his first publications to hand, the correspondence and reprint exchange partnerships increased rapidly; his home, at Zehntwiesenstrasse 52 in Ettlingen, became an odonatological address known worldwide.

Since the early days of his odonatological work, Dr Jurzitza undertook numerous odonatological trips and expeditions; his professional botanical journeys were likewise interwoven with dragonfly business. In the 1960s and 1970s his interests were focused on southern France (e.g. 1964a), where he met Daniel JARRY. In 1970, 1976 and again in 1999 he visited West Virginia, Ohio and New York (cf. 1971b). His most recent trip was devoted to an inspection of the classical Adirondack odonate country, undertaken in the company of Nick DONNELLY. In 1980, Dr Jurzitza dwelt in Japan, where he did much (mostly photographic) dragonfly work with Kiyoshi INOUE and members of the Kansai Research Group of Odonatology, Osaka (cf. 1981b), and spent subsequently some time with Kozo MIYAKAWA. In 1986, Dr and Mrs Jurzitza were engaged in the alpine dragonfly photography needed for one of his books (1988c), and paid a visit to the Kiautas at their Flumsberg home in Switzerland.

For years, the Spanish and South American dragonfly worlds have occupied a special place among Jurzitza's research interests. He maintains an intense correspondence with almost all workers in that part of the world, several of the younger of whom are to be considered his "pupils". In the 1970s he acquired more than a merely workable knowledge of Spanish, and undertook, between 1974 and 1988, four major voyages to Chile, Argentina and Brazil, one of these lasting a full year (cf. 1980f). There he spent time, or did research, with most of the regional workers, such as e.g. Newton Dias DOS SANTOS, Angelo B.M. MACHADO and Luis E. PEÑA, and rendered much encouragement and support to the younger generation, e.g. Javier MUZÓN and Alberto RODRIGUES CAPITULO. *Lestes jurzitzae* Muzón, 1994 stands witness to this period in his life.



Fig. 2. With Dr Thomas W. Donnelly ("Nick"); March 1998.

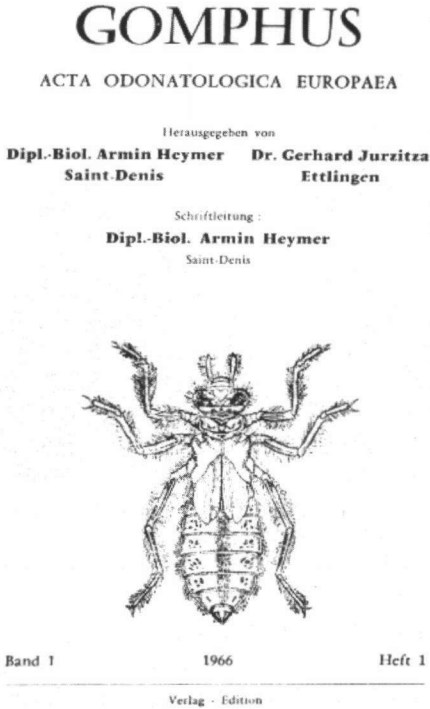


Fig. 3. An early attempt: cover of the never published "Gomphus"; 1966.

ous papers on sperm transfer, mating behaviour and oviposition, though mostly in German, have received much attention also in the New World and in Japan. He was among the first workers to apply REM in odonatology (1974a, 1975b).

The work on the fauna of South America commenced with a major paper on Chile (1967a; sequel 1975e), and was followed by over 20 publications (1978-1993), mostly of taxonomic emphasis, including the introduction of 7 new taxa. A study of population biology (1990a) is also among these. His annotated review of the odonate fauna of Chile (1989c) has been widely used. The fauna of Argentina has also received much attention in his works.

Dr Jurzitza published two field guides (1978d, 1988c), directed at a general readership. They have appeared also in Dutch (1978e) and French (1993b) editions. The presentation by habitat was a new idea for a European work at that time. And so was the use of infraspecific nomenclature in a work of this kind. Tremendously popular (but out-of-print now), the books certainly greatly increased the interest in dragonflies and facilitated the work of the young generation.

His dragonfly photography is a combination of science, technical skill and

Dr Jurzitza's interests and achievements in odonatology cover most of the major research disciplines. His achievements in the field of odonate macrophotography are proverbial, his field guides have contributed significantly to the overwhelming increase of interest in dragonflies in Germany and in a number of other European countries, while his initiatives relative to the world-wide organisation of odonatologists have been often decisive and continue to be indispensable. Little known, since it is unpublished, is his (dragonfly) haiku poetry.

Most of his contributions to European faunistics were published between 1959 and 1982; the fauna of Germany, France and Spain has received his attention. During this period he also tackled some of the then pending infraspeciation problems in European *Calopteryx* (1965c), *Aeshna subarctica* (1964c) and *Cordulegaster* (1964c). His numerous

aesthetics. The information contained in his photographs, whether used as illustrations in his publications, or published singly in various general journals, often represents a unique record of behavioural and other features, the importance of which equals or exceeds that of the text. In the early days of macrophotography he developed some innovative techniques, and his dragonfly pictures are in great demand by the authors and publishers of natural history magazines and books. Popular also was his commercially published series of col. transparencies (1977b).

Dr Jurzitza is an outspoken conservationist; his articles in German general magazines are well noted (re the odonates, e.g. 1982b, 1986c), and he is one of the authors of the first Baden-Württemberg Red List (1981e). Among his efforts that are less known to the general public are those for an adequate protection of *Coenagrion hylas* habitats in Germany.

Early in his research career Dr Jurzitza perceived the importance of communication, and experienced the advantages of prompt publication. The latter could not be always easily achieved; there were but few entomological periodicals in Germany at that time, and their appearance was often rather irregular. A specialised odonatological periodical could achieve the outcome needed. After all, the Japanese *Tombo*, appearing since 1958, was a persuasive example. This seems to have been the reasoning when Dr Jurzitza and Armin HEYMER conceived the idea to start "*Gomphus – Acta odonologica europaea*". In 1966, Heymer designed the cover and had it printed for the sake of advertisement (Fig. 3). Unfortunately, for whatever reason, the venture failed and the first issue has never appeared.

The 1960s brought about a steady increase in the population of European odonatologists. Encouraged by the success of Elwood B. MONTGOMERY's Purdue Colloquia of Odonatology in the United States, in 1970 Bastiaan KIAUTA started informal, more or less international odonatological meetings at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. Dr Jurzitza was among the participants, advocating the convocation of a formal European Symposium of Odonatology and the foundation of an international odonatological journal. Upon the invitation of Henri J. DUMONT,



Fig. 4. Chairman of one of the S.I.O. Charter Meeting sessions, at the First European Symposium of Odonatology, Gent, Belgium; October 1971. Seated Dr Eberhard Schmidt and Dr Bastiaan Kiauta. – (Photo D. Smit)



Fig. 5. Tireless recorder of dragonfly life: with camera at his garden pond; summer 1998. – (Photo H. Heidemann)

the formal Symposium was convened in 1971, at the University of Gent, Belgium. Needless to say, Dr Jurzitza was there and chaired one of the Charter Meeting sessions of *Societas Internationalis Odonatologica* S.I.O. (Fig. 4). There and then he was invited on the Editorial Board of the newly born *Odonatologica*, to which he has rendered his services ever since. In 1973 he organised the 2nd International Symposium of Odonatology at the Natural History Museum in Karlsruhe, and he continues as one of the cornerstones of the S.I.O.

In 1979 Rainer RUDOLPH convened an informal meeting of German odonatologists in Münster, at which meeting the German Odonatological Society (“Gesellschaft deutschsprachiger Odonatologen, GdO”) was born. Dr Jurzitza was there and stood at its cradle.

In 1992, upon the initiative of Manuel FERRERAS-ROMERO, an S.I.O. Regional Office was set up in Cordoba, Spain, publishing a regional newsletter, *Navasia*, and rendering various services to the Iberian workers. From the very beginning, Dr Jurzitza offered his cooperation, participating as one of the main authors in the newsletter and, above all, helping with the translation of various older German papers related to the Iberian fauna, the Spanish editions of which are being issued at intervals by the Office (e.g. 1993a).

As often is the case, since his retirement from the University, Dr Jurzitza’s working day has been getting ever longer. His assistance with the identification of South American collections and with dragonfly photographs for various publishers and web masters are proverbial on both sides of the Atlantic and in Japan. Requests for his professional advice continue to be forthcoming from many quarters of the world, and his involvement in various editorial matters, including the translations of large texts, including S.I.O. periodicals, is indispensable and it will remain so for many years to come.

NEW TAXA INTRODUCED IN ODONATA BY Dr G. JURZITZA

- Antiagrion grinbergi*: 1974b
Castoraeschna margarethae: 1979c
Acanthagrion leonardi: 1980a
Telebasis aureipennis: 1980b [Synonymized with *T. theodori* Navas, 1934, by R.W. Garrison, 1991, *Odonatologica* 20: 459-463]
Peristicta misionera: 1981d
Hetaerina mendezi: 1982c
Telebasis lacustris: 1984a [Synonym of *Helveciagrion simulacrum* (Calvert, 1909); Dr R.W. Garrison, pers. comm. 24 Nov. 1991]

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* Dr Jurzitza had also published over 90 papers on symbiosis, plant histology, and popular articles on other insect orders, conservation, etc.

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