
OBITUARIES

In the last few years several eminent Myriapodologists have passed away.

OTTO KRAUS**1930–2017**

Distinguished authority on zoological systematics, particularly of arachnids and myriapods, Professor Dr Otto Kraus died on 24 October 2017, at the age of 87. Born in Frankfurt am Main on 17 May 1930, his involvement in zoology began during his studies at the University of Frankfurt in the 1950s. He volunteered at the Senckenberg Museum, where he learnt a great deal about systematics and collections. After obtaining his PhD on spiders and myriapods from El Salvador, he gained employment in the newly established Arachnology Section at the Senckenberg Museum (Grasshoff & Jäger, 2005). He headed the section for invertebrates at the Senckenberg Museum between 1963 and 1969, and received his habilitation in zoology in 1965 on the biogeography of Myriapoda. In 1969, Professor Kraus moved to Hamburg to take up the position of director of the Zoological Institute and Zoological Museum of the University of Hamburg (he became emeritus in 1995), in which city he remained for the rest of his life.

As well as his museum work, Professor Kraus taught a wide range of course in zoology, including biodiversity, systematics, evolution, and biogeography, with an emphasis, of course, on arthropods. He edited the journals of the *Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein in Hamburg* (now in its 180th year), and was its president from 1970 to 1974. He used the journals to publish the proceedings of numerous conferences, many of which he organized. For example, the 3rd International Congress on Myriapodology was held in Hamburg in 1975 and its papers were published in *Abhandlungen und Verhandlungen des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg*. The 20th *Phylogenetische Symposion*, held in Hamburg in 1975 (theme: Co-evolution), was published as a special volume (Sonderband) of the society, the 21st *Phylogenetische Symposion* in Göttingen 1976 (theme: Phylogeny of Arthropods) was published in the *Abhandlungen*, and *Zoologische Systematik in Mitteleuropa* was published as a Sonderband. Kraus was three times president of the Joachim-Jungius-Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften in Hamburg: 1978–1982, 1996–1997, and 1998–1999. Professor Kraus served as a commissioner 1963–1995 and as president 1989–1995 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), after which he served as a trustee of the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature. During his time at ICZN, he oversaw the 4th edition of the Code, and was the driving force behind translating it into German.

The myriapodological work of Otto Kraus began early in his career: some of his first publications were on myriapods from South and Central America, which formed a large part of his doctoral dissertation. He also had interests in the African fauna, and published some works on myriapods from that continent. Later publications became more reflective upon general features of the myriapods: where they fit in the scheme of invertebrate phylogeny, and the fossil history of the Myriapoda. Otto Kraus was involved in

the organization of European myriapodology from its beginning. He attended the First International Congress of Myriapodology, which was held in the Natural History Museum in Paris on 8th–13th April 1968, concurrently with the Fourth International Congress of Arachnology. It was at this meeting that the Centre International de Myriapodologie was established. Professor Kraus hosted the Third International Congress of Myriapodology in Hamburg in 1975.

Professor Kraus's scientific work ranged widely across systematics, morphology, evolution, and beyond. We remember him particularly for his insightful contributions to congress proceedings, usually on fundamental problems in arthropod groups. The British Arachnological Society hosted the 17th European Colloquium of Arachnology in Edinburgh in 1997, at which Professor Kraus gave an invited presentation on phylogenetic systematics versus cladistic techniques, and he contributed a seminal work on Palaeozoic Diplopoda to the Second International Congress of Myriapodology in Manchester 1972. Otto Kraus contributed to the famous German encyclopaedia *Grzimeks Tierleben*, and translated Ernst Mayr's 1969 *Principles of Systematic Zoology* into German. He was also active against creationism, and edited the volume *Evolutionstheorie und Kreationismus—ein Gegensatz*. From 1977 to 1980 he was editor of the journal *Zoomorphology*. Among his approximately 190 publications (listed in Jäger *et al.* 2018), he wrote not only on his favourite Araneae and Diplopoda, but also on other arachnid orders, Chilopoda, insects, fossils, and even molluscs and mastodons.

Professor Kraus was honoured by a number of organizations, including nomination as a corresponding member of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung in 1970. He was an honorary member of the Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein in Hamburg, the International Society of Myriapodology, the British Arachnological Society, Arachnologische Gesellschaft, the International Society of Arachnology, and Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica (Finland). In 2006 he was appointed to the Akademie Gemeinnütziger Wissenschaften zu Erfurt, and was awarded the Ehrenbrief by that society in 2011. As Vertrauensdozent of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Otto Kraus supported and advised many high-flying students. He was an advocate of traditional scientific illustration and published a short note about it.

Professor Kraus was laid to rest in Frankfurt in the family grave. He is survived by his wife, Dr Margarete Kraus, who shared his life for 62 years, and their daughter Dr Beate Kraus.

REFERENCES

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