

Józef RAZOWSKI – a biographical sketch

Józef RAZOWSKI was born in Milówka, Southern Poland, in 1932. His parents soon moved for a time to another Polish spa, Szczawnica in the Pieniny range, and returned to Cracow only after the war.

After graduating from the Cracow Polytechnics in 1953, Józef RAZOWSKI worked as a mechanical engineer, soon entering, however, faculty at the Jagiellonian University, biology, graduating from it in 1958. He received his Ph.D. at the same university in 1961, and obtained his S.D. in 1966.

He started voluntary work for the Natural History Museum of the Academy of Sciences and Letters in Cracow in 1949, becoming, in 1954, a full-time employee of this institution later renamed the Institute of Zoology, and still later the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He went through the all stages of scientific career, becoming Professor in 1973. He was (1987-1996) head of this institute.

His naturalist interests date back to primary school, when he collected lepidoptera and beetles with his father. He worked out his first material, collected in the Pieniny range, still in secondary school – this has been published much later. He continued his work in the faunistics (Lepidoptera of Cracow region), but his chief interest lay in the family Tortricidae. He studied the faunas of some regions of the Palaearctic: Afghanistan, Lebanon, Mongolia, and others.

Józef RAZOWSKI has published more than 360 works included 30 books and monographs. He published several tens of works on the taxonomy of Tortricidae genera; also on the families Adelidae, Eriocraniidae, Micropterigidae, Cossidae, Carposinidae, Pterophoridae, Coleophoridae and others. His publications on Tortricidae initially dealt with the various geographic regions as Palaearctics or Neotropics and later, of the whole world. Of greatest importance were the monographs of the particular genera (e.g. *Clepsis*, *Aphelia*, *Archips*) and tribes (the European and Palaearctic Cnephasiini). His extensive monographs also include the several hundred pages of the study on the world Tortricini (1968) and two volumes (Cochylidae, 1973 and Tortricini, 1984) of the ‘Microlepidoptera Palaearctica’. Those works aimed at being possibly comprehensive, thus attracting his attention to anatomy, bionomy and phylogeny. He studied the structure of the skeleton and the muscles of the genital organs (Tortricidae, Atychidae, Pterophoridae, Cossidae and others), scent organs, vestiture of genitalia etc. Prof. RAZOWSKI was interested also in the biology of several lepidopteran groups, publishing on the subject (e.g. on orchards and storehouse pests, etc.). He also included many ecological data into his monographs, initiated and still completed studies on evolution and its systematics implications (Tortricidae and a sketch on the order Lepidoptera). The series of the publications in systematics and faunistics based on the morphology and bionomy constitute the series dealing with the biodiversity. In this branch of the achievements belong various commented checklists. He started the Lepidoptera of Poland series, 9 volumes of which have already appeared, and of collective works, e.g. the “Checklist of Polish Animals” and initiated the “Lepidoptera of Europe; a commented checklist”. He has had some publications on history of zoology on the side, also dealing for a time with esthetics.

All those studies required his participation in a number of expeditions (e.g. to South America, Mexico or Asia); he also worked in some of the major naturalist institutions and museums of various countries, e.g. in Japan, England, Mexico, the USA and Brazil.

Of his Polish-language works, the most important are his “Entomological Dictionary”, and “Dictionary of Insect morphology”, two encyclopedies containing several thousands entries, mainly on morphology, anatomy, systematics and bionomy. His popular science achievements include a number of realized or consulted natural films, some of which have been rewarded in international shows. He also carried on some didactic activity. He is a member of several scientific committees (v-president of the Zoological Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences), societies, editorial boards, and he also is the editor-in-chief of the Monographs of Polish Fauna, the Checklist of Polish Animals etc.

He has received numerous prizes and distinctions in his country and abroad, of which he values most the Schiffermuller Medal. He also was nominated to the Albert Einstein World Award for Science and, formerly to the Emperor Hirohito Prize. He is the member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. The whole of his activity has been presented in a biographical film.