



**Professor Andrzej SZEPTYCKI
(1939-2008)**

De profundis clamavi ad te, Domine...(Ps. 130)

Professor Andrzej SZEPTYCKI, one of the most prominent contemporary Polish taxonomist, died 28 September 2008 in Kraków, at the age of 69. He was born 9 July, in the village Dziewiętniki near Lvov. He was well known to biologists and entomologists of many specialities from his extensive scientific interest, he was a good colleague and friend, always ready to offer his help to younger scientists.

Andrzej got his secondary education in Krosno (1951-1955) and then, a lifetime resident in Poznań, he graduated (M.Sc.) in 1961 from the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. His master's thesis on the Collembola of the Wolin Is. (published partially in 1962-1964), has been achieved under guidance of his mentor, Professor Jan RAFALSKI, the tutor of many Polish taxonomists. At the same University, in 1966, Andrzej received his PhD presenting the dissertation on the collembolan fauna of the Ojców National Park with very thorough biogeographical analysis (published in 1967). He received his further scientific degree (habilitation) in 1976, as a result of the researches on chaetotaxy of the Entomobryidae and its phylogenetical sig-

nificance with the morpho-systematic studies on Collembola. This work, published in 1979, is cited by all authors working on morphology and postembryonic development of Collembola. In 1987, Andrzej was awarded a professorship.

In the course of his studies at the University in Poznań, Andrzej SZEPTYCKI was employed as a technical assistant in the Poznań Branch of Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 1 November 1961, he was on placement in the Department of Animal Morphology A. Mickiewicz University where he followed studies on collembolan fauna from Wolin Is. and he led the classes of invertebrate zoology. A year later, he obtained the scholarship from the Department of Systematics and Experimental Zoology (now Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals), Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków where he was affiliated during 46 years and moved up the career ladder.

On 15 December 1981 he was appointed as a director of the Department and during three most difficult years under the raged Marshall Law he managed and protected our Department. In the years 1988-1994 he worked as a deputy director in the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, and in 1994-1997 he managed the Department of Invertebrate Zoology in the Institute.

Professor SZEPTYCKI has authored and co-authored to 119 scientific papers and articles, covering the taxonomy, faunistics and morphology of the Collembola and Protura. Particularly the results of studies on Protura fixed his position of the indisputable authority. He described seven new genera and 87 new species of Protura, 16 new species of Collembola, and one new species of Grylloblattodea. The most important papers are: Chaetotaxy of the Entomobryidae and its phylogenetical significance. Morpho-systematic studies on Collembola. IV (1979) and Catalogue of the World Protura (2006). He was the thesis supervisor of Wanda Maria WEINER (PhD, in 1978) and Ewa STWORZEWICZ (Phd, in 1980). Mrs Julyia SHRUBOVYCH from Lvov (State Natural History Museum, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences) is his student and follower in Protura.

Andrzej SZEPTYCKI participated in the International Colloquia on Soil Zoology and on Apterygota in: Prague, Jevany – 1973; Södörtajle (Sweden) – 1976; Mogilany (Poland) – 1979 (organizer); Moscow (Russia) – 1985; České Budějovice (Czech Republic) – 2000. He participated also in the seminars on Apterygota in Siena (Italy 1978, 1986, 1989) and Białowieża (Poland 1993) and in the entomological conferences in Ukraine (1992, 2005, 2006, 2007). On the basis of international exchange between the Academies of Science, he visited many scientific institutions in Europe and participated in the field expeditions to North Korea, Siberia (Baikal Sea) and Ukraine, as well to South Africa and USA. He passed some time in Siena (Italy) and in Luxembourg. He became active in a number of scientific societies, such as: Committee of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Central Commission for the Scientific Degrees and Title (three terms) and Local Commission of Ethics. He was a member of the Scientific Council of our Institute, and of the Institute of Nature Conservation, PAS, Kraków, a chairman of Scientific Council of Ojców National Park and a member of the editorial boards of the scientific journals: *Acta zoologica cracoviensia*, *Fragmenta faunistica*, *Wiadomości entomologiczne*.

Andrzej was fascinated by the literature and poetry and he especially loved the poems of Bolesław Leśmian. He was also fascinated by the mosses, collecting and identifying them, and in the last years he became interested in the photography of nature. He spoke often and passionately about zoology and its role in our understanding of the world we live in.

Wanda M. WEINER
Zdzisława T. STEBNICKA