



Janusz Wojtusiak

1942 – 2012

Janusz Wojtusiak was born in 1942 in Kraków, Poland. Since early childhood, he was fascinated by nature, and particularly butterflies. Beyond any doubt, this interest was instilled in him by his father, the well-known Polish biologist, Roman Wojtusiak, Professor at the Jagiellonian University. With his father he observed and collected butterflies in then extremely rich and diversified locations around Kraków, such as Podgórk Tynieckie, Kostrze, Ojców and the Niepołomicka Forest, as well as during summer vacations in their favourite Kościelisko locality and in Podhale and the Tatra Mts.

He began his biological studies at the Jagiellonian University in 1959. During his studies he was very active in the academic life – he organised the Club of Young Naturalists, led a number of speleological expeditions in the Polish Jura and Tatra Mts., and led scientific camps for students. After graduating in 1964, he was employed as an Assistant in the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography under the leaderships of Professor Stanisław Smreczyński. Throughout the 1960s and in the early 1970s he was particularly involved in the activities of the Polish Mountaineering Association, driven, as he himself put it, by his affection for mountains and by the desire to go beyond the border into the unknown. In 1966 and 1967 and in 1973 he participated in the first Polish climbing expeditions in the Hindu Kush Mts. in Afghanistan and in Kashmir in Pakistan. During these expeditions, Janusz amassed a rich and ex-

tremely valuable collection of butterflies including several thousands of rare specimens of *Parnassius*, as well as *Baltia* whites and *Karanasa* satyrines. As Janusz recalled, when other members of the expeditions were occupied with climbing the snow-covered peaks, he was rather interested in penetrating the high-mountain valleys in search of interesting insects. The material brought from these expeditions enriched the collection of the Zoological Museum of the Jagiellonian University. During expeditions to Asia, he also shot many hours of documentary films that have recently been converted into digital format.

His Ph.D. thesis, presented in 1971, concerned the morphology of microlepidoptera from the family Adelidae and was one of the pioneering studies of this group. He described in detail and illustrated the female copulatory apparatus of adelids, together with its associated musculature. Soon after gaining the title of *doctor habilitatus* at the beginning of the 1980s, he was appointed Head of the Zoological Museum of the Jagiellonian University. Immediately afterwards, he was offered a contract to teach at a university in Nigeria, which, in these difficult times, provided him with a rare opportunity to receive a decent salary as a Polish academic teacher. Between 1982 and 1986, Janusz taught zoology and entomology at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka. Throughout that period, he spent almost all his free time undertaking excursions into forests and savannas looking for interesting film footage and insects for the scientific collection of the Zoological Museum. The material collected by him, principally in southeastern Nigeria, in the Nsukka and Okomu forests, as well as the Obudu and Oban mountains, includes thousands of specimens and is one of the most exhaustive collections of butterflies and moths from this region in the world. Many specimens constituted species new to science, described later by specialists in various groups, and the number of type specimens deposited in Kraków elevated the scientific value of the collection at the Jagiellonian. Another scientific result of his stay in Nigeria was the description of a new morphological organ in the ants of the genus *Oecophylla*, namely pretarsal pads, which allow these insects to push large prey on smooth and almost vertical surfaces.

After returning from Nigeria, Janusz continued his research in the field of entomology. His interests focused on circadian cycles in insects, various aspects of the behaviour of social insects such as ants, bees, and termites, as well as issues in taxonomy and the faunistics of butterflies.

In 1989 and 1990 he gave lectures in forest entomology at the invitation of the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point. At that time he started an active co-operation with the leading zoological museums in Europe and the United States, above all with the Natural History Museum in London. This project aimed at producing a comprehensive work detailing the scientific collection of butterflies in the Zoological Museum of the Jagiellonian University. In 1991, he published a textbook on the ethology of insects, which is the only such comprehensive treatment of this topic in the Polish language to date. For several years, Janusz continued his studies aimed at updating and publishing a new edition of this textbook, but these plans were thwarted by his illness. At the turn of the 1980s and 1990s he again collected butterflies in tropical countries on several occasions: in India and Tanzania, and under the scientific programme of the Zoological Museum in Sao Tome and Principe. The latter expeditions have again resulted in very

interesting scientific material serving as a source for a number of scientific publications concerning, *inter alia*, fauna, and taxonomy, including new species, as well as various aspects of the biology and ecology of butterflies of that region.

In 1994, Janusz received a professorial nomination from the President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Wałęsa. From the mid 1990s, the scientific interests of Professor Janusz Wojtusiak were geared towards the mountainous areas of South America, as he noticed the hidden scientific potential in the mostly unknown fauna of many groups of butterflies of this region. From 1996 he either participated in or organised more than ten scientific expeditions into the Andes: in 1996 into the Cordillera de Merida in Venezuela; in 1997 to western Colombia; in 1998 to northern Peru; in 2000 and again in 2008 to Bolivia; in 2002 to central Peru; several times to Ecuador from 2002 to 2004, under the project sponsored by the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN); and in 2007 again to Venezuela. During these scientific expeditions, extraordinarily valuable and extensive material of a large number of various lepidopteran groups across the whole order were collected, which resulted in more than 100 scientific publications and descriptions of more than 400 new species of butterflies and moths, principally belonging to Tortricidae, in co-authorship with Professor Józef Razowski. Together with the latter, Janusz described a new olfactory organ located on the abdomen of the African representatives of Adelidae. One of his most interesting achievements was discovering and describing the first brachypterous and non-flying male moth in the world, in the genus *Xenomigia* (Notodontidae).

Janusz was the initiator of research and teaching co-operation agreements between the Jagiellonian University and several leading scientific institutions and universities in South America, including the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research and the National University of San Marcos in Lima. These agreements facilitated to a great extent the research activities of scientific staff, doctoral students, and undergraduates of the Jagiellonian University, carried out in the almost uncharted mountainous forests of this continent. The exploration of the Andes placed the Zoological Museum on the list of the most highly regarded museums and research institutions in Europe with respect to the studies of butterfly fauna and global biodiversity.

Janusz was an academic teacher highly regarded and well liked by his students. For many years he had taught the ethology of insects, zoogeography, and entomological techniques. Since 2007 he had co-organised and was one of the lecturers in Tropical Ecology, a course whose fieldwork component was being undertaken each year in Venezuela – first such course in Poland. In recent years he devoted much time to his new hobby, making films about nature. He shot and edited many hours of documentaries that are used as teaching aids and in the promotional activities of the Jagiellonian University.

He filled his free time with making field excursions in the Tatras, Alps, and Rocky Mountains, from which he always brought back interesting insect specimens. Janusz was a very active advocate for the establishment of a new chair at the Zoological Museum of the Jagiellonian University and for creating a modern basis for teaching within the Centre for Natural Sciences Education, whose planning he supervised as a senior consultant.