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**Some biographical and bibliographical information
on the late specialists in aquatic coleoptera
Kazimierz Galewski and Edward Tranda**

Abstract

Having no news about the Polish colleague Kazimierz Galewski, specialist in aquatic beetles, met in Ravenna in the 70s of the last century, the author of this note searched the internet and asked Polish colleagues for news. This note reports the information collected on him and on another Polish naturalist, Edward Tranda, who in the same years dealt with aquatic beetles and had collaborated with Galewski. The lists of their scientific publications are updated.

Key words: Galewski, Tranda, publications, aquatic coleoptera.

Riassunto

[Notizie biografiche e bibliografiche su Kazimierz Galewski ed Edward Tranda, specialisti di coleotteri acquatici]

Non avendo più notizie del collega polacco Kazimierz Galewski, ricercatore e specialista di coleotteri acquatici, conosciuto a Ravenna negli anni '70 del secolo scorso, l'autore ha cercato informazioni su internet e ha chiesto notizie a colleghi entomologi polacchi. Questa nota riporta le informazioni raccolte su di lui e su un altro naturalista polacco, Edward Tranda, che in quegli stessi anni si occupava di coleotteri acquatici ed aveva collaborato con Galewski. Si fornisce la lista aggiornata delle loro pubblicazioni scientifiche.

The year 2015 caused the loss of two important Polish specialists in aquatic beetles. Edward Tranda, born in 1924 passed away on May 29, 2015 at Łódź, and Kazimierz Galewski born in 1928 passed away on November 4, 2015 at Warszawa.

Professor Kazimierz Galewski was a specialist in water-beetles and devoted himself especially to the study of the immature stages of Dytiscidae. The world War II was a terrible experience for him, including - as far as I know - a detention in a concentration camp. About 50 years ago, he spent a few days with me at Ravenna, and we collected insects in the surrounding wetlands. I was amazed to see how well he identified the immature stages of water beetles at first glance,

while I was absolutely unable to do so. He used to say that most species can be recognized by the way they walk or hide. In fact he was a great expert of water beetles and his company was very informative. As I noticed, and it is confirmed by Polish entomologists, Galewski was really a lonely person. He once said to me: "I have no relatives, nobody, my family is the Polish Academy of Science". This sentence denotes an elusive personality and a scientist completely devoted to his work. That is worth noting!

I thought the cause of such strange and lonely behaviour was what happened during World War II.

Professor Galewski was a secretive and mysterious figure even for his own generation of Polish entomologists, and for the younger generations almost a legendary figure. It is certain that he was never member of Polish Entomological Society and did not maintain contacts with other Polish entomologists, with the exception of Edward Tranda at the beginning of his work.

Unfortunately, after our meeting in Ravenna we lost touch and I didn't know anything about him anymore. Searching information from the internet I found he passed away at the age of 87. I found no obituary nor biographical notes. I have not even found a photograph of him. He didn't like being photographed.

The circumstances indicated above may somehow explain the fact that his death passed so unnoticed in his own country. A list of Galewski's publications was published on line by Tomasz Kabala and in a paper by Anders N. Nilsson in "The Balfour-Browne Club Newsletter" No 46 of Febr. 1990. (complete up to that year). An updated list is reported here below.

Besides studies on various branches of the Natural Sciences, namely zoogeography, ornithology and nature conservation, Edward Tranda PhD deepened the study of the Family Gyrinidae. He associated his academical activity with the University of Łódź, especially with the Natural Museum of that University, and co-operated with Kazimierz Galewski in some publications, though he abandoned entomology in his later years of work. Apart from strictly scientific activities he was the author and co-author of popular science publications and promoter of biological education of young people, a long time Chairman of the Regional Biological Olympic Comitee. He was also involved in social activities. In the years 1994-2002 he was the Chairman of the Pensioniers 'Section of the Polish Teachers' Union at the University of Łódź. Dr. Tranda was a well-known and respected person in his city and his death was notified by the Dean and all employees of the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection of the University of Łódź.

For a strange coincidence they died a few months apart from each other. I believe these two scientists did much credit to Polish entomology and their achievements are noteworthy.

This biographical note and the lists of publications were prepared in co-operation with the Polish colleagues Czesław Greń and Krzysztof Lubecki, to whom I extend many thanks.

Kazimierz Galewski - publications

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Edward Tranda - Publications

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