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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR KONSTANTY STRAWIŃSKI*

The seventeenth of August, 1981, was the day of the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Prof. K. Strawiński, a prominent zoologist — entomologist and academic instructor, a teacher of many generations of naturalists, and one of the founders of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. The Professor's scholarly interests were focused on faunal and ecological problems, and they especially concerned bugs (Heteroptera).

Konstanty Strawiński was born on May 22, 1892, in Kursk (USSR) in the family of Wacław Hieronim Strawiński, doctor of medicine. He finished the grammar school in Cherson in 1911. He began his academic studies in Charkov and graduated in 1917 with the degree of "magister" (M. Sc.) on the basis of a thesis entitled "Razwitje Myriothela phrygia F. (Coelenterata)". Already during studies he worked as a junior assistant in Charkov Agricultural College (since 1915) under the direction of an eminent Russian zoologist and entomologist, Prof. I. Tarnani. In the years 1917—1921 he was a senior assistant in the Chair of Invertebrate Zoology at Charkov University.

In the years 1922—1931 he worked in the Chair of Entomology and Forest Protection in the Main School of Rural Economy in Warsaw, under the direction of an outstanding entomologist, Prof. Z. Mokrzecki. At that time he prepared a thesis entitled "Natural History of Pine Bug — Aradus cinnamomeus", on the basis of which he obtained the degree of doctor (D. Sc.) at the Poznań University (in 1927). Prof. J. Grochmalicki was the sponsor of the thesis while Profs. A. Jakubski and J. Paczoski were the reviewers,

^{*} Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Professor's widow, Ms. Jadwiga Strawińska, M.A., for making available the materials for this note.

In 1939 he obtained the degree of the "habilitated" doctor (Dozent — Assistant Professor) at the Forestry Faculty of the Lwów Polytechnic, on the basis of a dissertation entitled "Studies on the Fauna of Tree and Shrub Bugs in Poland".

During the occupation of Poland in World War II, Prof. K. Strawiński was employed as agricultural worker and then as entomologist at the Station of Plant Protection in Lublin Agricultural House, After the liberation of the country in July, 1944, he was actively involved in the organization of the Agricultural High School at the Agricultural House as its headmaster. In August 1944 he was called forth to participate in the organization of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. In November 1944 the Country's National Council nominated him full professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the UMCS. He then organized the Department of Biology, which subsequently became the Department of Specific Zoology and Entomology, and still later — the Department of Systematic Zoology and the Chair of Systematic Zoology. He was head of the Department and the Chair until his retirement in October, 1962. Apart from that, he was also director of the Zoological Institute (1952-1964), dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (1944—1945), and University vice-rector (1945—1947).

Professor K. Strawiński greatly contributed to the organization of Polish science. As a member of the Biological Subsection he took part in the preparations of the 1st Congress of Polish Science, and, as chairman, he participated in the activities of the Plant Protection Commission at the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farming Reforms. He also cooperated with the State Council of Nature Protection. He was a member of the Zoological Committee of the Polish Academy of Science and, for many years, president of the Polish Entomological Society as well as president of the Lublin Branch of the Polish Zoological Society and Nicholas Copernicus Polish Society of Naturalists.

In 1954 Prof. K. Strawiński became the editor-in-chief of the Polish Entomological Journal and in 1956 — editor of Section C (Biology) of Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin. He remained active in these capacities until 1966.

Special emphasis is deserved by the Professor's teaching activities: he was a sponsor of 57 doctoral dissertations and a reviewer of 22 "habilitation" thesis. His scholarly achievements must also be considered very large. On the whole, he was the author or co-author of 359 publications, of which 8 appeared posthumously. Among these papers there are 79 original studies concerning such domains as faunistics, biology, and zoogeography. The studies are based mainly on a large group of insects — Heteroptera. A substantial number consists of popular-scient-

ific works, reports, biographies, and historical essays (261 items). He is also the author or co-author of zoology handbooks, plant protection manuals, and insect identification keys (19 items). The full record of his publications appeared in Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska, sectio C, vol. 20, Lublin 1966, pp. 1—16; works published post-humously, and therefore omitted from the enumeration there, are listed below.

For his involved and fruitful activities Prof. Strawiński was rewarded and honoured many times, among others, with: the Order of Polonia Restituta, 4th class (August 19, 1946), the Gold Cross of Merit (October 28, 1954), the Medal of the 10th Anniversary of People's Poland (July 22, 1955), the Commodore Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (May 24, 1957), the Gold Honorary Badge of "The Distinguished Popularizer of Knowledge, TWP" (March 15, 1960), and the Gold Badge of the 20th Anniversary of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (October 23, 1964).

In spite of his numerous duties in teaching, science, and organization at the University, the Professor spent each spare moment on beloved entomology which he cherished above everything else. He collected, prepared, and identified insects, and he carried on abundant correspondence with entomologist of similar interests. He could speak about the world of insects with deep knowledge and thus inspired love to nature among the academic youth and his co-workers. He had a rich entomological collection which was then presented to the Zoology Department of the UMCS, the Institution with which he was closely connected till the last days of his life. The memory of Prof. K. Strawiński is still alive. His co-workers in the Department of Zoology and Nature Protection, his former students, and all those who cooperated with him, remember him as a man of great status, righteous, always benevolent, and unusually modest.

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- 3. Hemiptera-Heteroptera szczo wymahajut' wołogich umow seredowyszcza. Wisnyk Lwiws'koho Uniwersytetu, Serija biołohiczna 3, 3—5 (1967).
- 4. Pluskwiaki różnoskrzydłe (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) znajdujące warunki bytu na pniach drzew. Folia Forestalia Pol., ser. A 15, 277—285 (1969).

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- 6. [co-author] I. Sienkiewicz: Połużestokryłyje (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) sobrannyje w Bołgarii. Izwiestija na Zoołogiczeskija Institut BAN, 33, 209—211 (1971).
- 7. Hemiptera-Heteroptera spotykane na debach. Pol. Pismo Entom. 44, pp 817—826 (1974).
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Doc. dr hab. Zdzisław Cmoluch