

**We are celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary  
of Professor Pavel Štys' birth**

However unbelievable it is, Dr. Pavel Štys, Emeritus Professor of Entomology in the Department of Zoology of Charles University in Prague celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The present issue of *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* is dedicated to him on this occasion, in honour to his lifetime excellent entomological research of great importance, interesting lectures, inspirative hypotheses and ideas, from both his heteropterist and nonheteropterist friends, students, and colleagues.

Pavel Štys is known world wide and acknowledged to be an outstanding specialist and great person in the community of heteropterists. A survey of his work and his laudatio were published some years ago (see PAPÁČEK & VILÍMOVÁ 1999, VILÍMOVÁ 1995). He has always been an active man, working as a Commissioner of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and editor of *European Journal of Entomology*, managing field courses in invertebrate zoology, giving lectures on the Methods and principles of systematic zoology and General entomology, and supervising successful MSc. and Ph.D. theses.

The importance and fruitfulness of Pavel Štys' magnificent scientific work are apparent in his nearly four hundred and fifty publications, which are cited world wide. The success of his pedagogical work can be illustrated by the fact that his former students are at present working in the positions of university professors or leaders of research teams in the Czech Academy of Science.

Professor Štys is interested not only in heteropterology but also in problems of evolutionary entomology, phylogeny, and classification of Arthropoda. His larger current research projects include: Revision of Enicocephalomorpha, Morphology of Enicocephalomorpha and Dipsocoromorpha, New family group taxa of Cimicomorpha and Pentatomoidea from Australia and Madagascar, and Wing venation and articulation of hemipteran wings (joint project with Jarmila Kukalová-Peck, Carleton University, Ottawa). At present, he is also working jointly with his wife Alice Exnerová (Charles University, Prague) on multimodal antipredatory defences of Heteroptera, mainly on learning, generalization and attitudes of passeriform birds towards aposematic heteropterans from the ethological and phylogenetic point of view.

We are pleased that we can hereby wish a continuation of such interesting research projects, and all the best, to Pavel Štys for the coming years.

Miroslav Papáček

### Pavel Štys: half a century of friendship

*As the main point of this our after-meetings,  
To gratify his noble service that  
Hath thus stood for his country. Therefore please you  
....., to report  
A little of that worthy work performed  
By Caius Marcius Coriolanus, whom  
We met here both to thank and to remember  
With honors like himself.*

W. SHAKESPEARE: CORIOLANUS 2:2:42-52

I have known Pavel Štys, first on paper then in person, for nearly 50 years (! – ‘We have heard the chimes at midnight.’). The earliest correspondence I find is a letter to Pavel dated February 16, 1960, thanking ‘Dr Štys,’ for a reprint of his paper on heteropter female ectodermal genitalia. I had just begun my PhD on Coreoidea, and this was one of many letters I wrote to heteropterists thanking them for their kindness and help. I wrote in that letter of a growing interest in more general matters of heteropter morphology, Pavel responded in kind, and we were off.

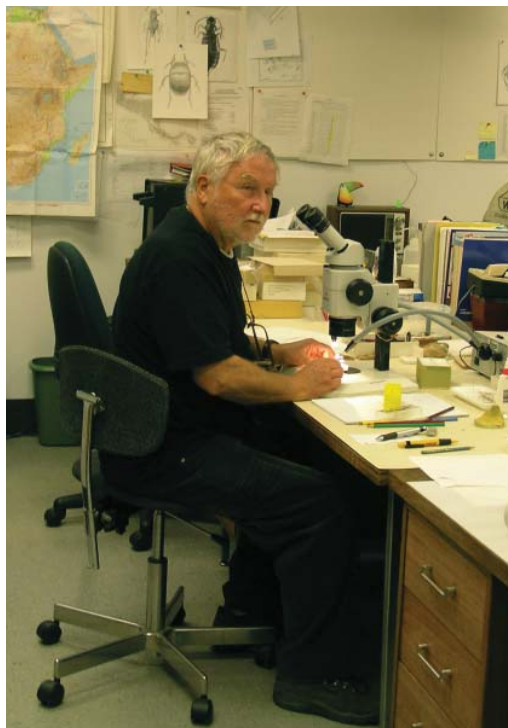
Each in our midtwenties, we knew more then and had more and vaster opinions, than I suspect we have had since: as wisdom grows, certainty fades. At any rate, for the next several years we discussed bugs and their parts; we disagreed, mildly, on whether coreids have more than one stridulatory device (I said one, based on my very first paper, and was wrong); we exchanged manuscripts and commented on them; sent one another books unavailable in our respective geographic and political zones. By 1963 we were saying even more to one another (still as ‘Dr. Štys’ and ‘Mr. Schaefer,’ I not getting my degree until 1964), still on bugs but, as we learned more and looked at more bugs, in ever greater detail. And we were moving quickly and steadily beyond colleguery to friendship.

In 1964 we became ‘Carl’ and ‘Pavel,’ and were outlining projects we hoped each of us might undertake and, if not we, then others (but not so well). We exchanged books, not all of them scientific (I sent him a Czech translation of one of my father’s books.) Pavel sent me some recordings of Czech composers (years later I sent some Brahms chamber music). It was then our letters became personal. I was about to be married (the abandoned Pecos Pueblo, sundown, Christmas Eve: most romantic), and, in 1965, our letters included notes to and from our (then) wives.

The letters continue, of course, to now. Still full of bug-talk and friendship and jokes and invitations. There were times of stress and sadness, as marriages failed; times of sickness and worry; and times of happiness, as children were born and grew and as we ourselves achieved occasional moments of recognition. We wrote about academic politics in general, and the Byzantine heteropterological politics then surrounding myself, and American politics and European (in early 1991 I suggested that by 2000 there would be 7 European countries: the 6 Yugoslav republics and Europe); we wrote about students, some good, some dull, some hardly twitching: much the same in both countries; about trips (Pavel wrote, ‘Riki Tiki Tavi visiting



Pavel Štys during a field trip in Burgundy (France, July 2008). Photo: A. Exnerová.



Pavel Štys visiting the Carleton University in Ottawa (Canada) in November 2006. Photo: J. Kukulová-Peck.



Pavel Štys during the field trip in Thassos (Greece, September 2006). Photo: A. Exnerová.



Carl W. Schaefer (left) and Pavel Štys (right) during the Fourth European Hemiptera Congress in Ivrea (Italy, September 2007). Photo: N. & M. Gogala.

our verandah' in Khartoum; and Arab girls shocked by Pavel's wife's bikini; and in Greece, 'groups of old American ladies rushed by guides and affectionately reading Baedekers'; and retsina, 'the only drink which fits the air saturated by terpenes from pine-trees').

We had known each other and become friends for all this time, but had never met. Finally, in 1990, Pavel came to New York and then to Connecticut for a few days. Driving to meet him at the Hartford railroad station, I worried: we had known each other now for a quarter-century; we liked each other; we knew each other quite well (family, profession, books, music, travel, some politics). But, after all these years and all these dozens and dozens of letters – Would we actually *like* each other? (I learned later he had the same apprehension.) The time was late, the train station was crowded, we were tired, and the traffic on the 90-minute trip back was heavy – therefore we spoke very little on the way to my house. Which we reached about 11 PM, and where I brought out two glasses, some ice, and a large bottle of single-malt whisky (I think, Glenfiddich).

Hours later, many hours later, increasingly hazy hours later, hours later neither of us quite recalls and the bottle empty, we were better friends face to face than we had ever been on paper. And thus it has remained, to my delight. Pavel is wise and funny and knows lots of things about lots of things. And it is wonderful to know him and a pleasure to talk laugh and argue with him, before during and after the only Czech word I know: *pivo*.

And so it is a privilege to honor Pavel Štys here. And a joy to celebrate his friendship.

*I smile as I remember how often you and I  
Have tir'd the sun with talking, and sent him down the sky.*

Carl W. Schaefer

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