

IN MEMORIAM Prof. PhD. D.Sc. Gábor JENSER (01.04.1931- 06.05.2015)

Liliana VASILIU- OROMULU^{1,*} and Daniela BĂRBUCEANU^{2,*}

1. Institute of Biology, Bucharest, Spl. Independentei 296, Bucharest, Romania.

2. University of Pitești, Faculty of Sciences, Târgu din Vale St. 1, 110040, Pitești, Romania.

*Corresponding author, E-mail: liliana_oromulu@yahoo.com; daniela_barbuceanu@yahoo.com

Abstract. This year Hungarian and world entomological science has lost one of its most prominent representatives, i.e. the octogenarian Prof. PhD. DSc. Gábor Jenser. His special contribution was recognized by all experts in Thysanoptera all over the world, considering him one of the leading voices of the golden generation of the science dealing with those minuscule insects. We provide a brief note on his meritorious contribution to the systematic, ecology of Thysanoptera species and integrated pest management.

Keywords: scientific activity, organizing international symposia, inter-academic projects, publications

Gábor JENSER (Photo 1-2) was an outstanding researcher with a long career in systematic, ecology, virus transmission of the Thysanoptera species. Gábor Jenser was born on 01.04.1931 in the city Nyiregyháza (Hungary). Between 1949-1953, he studied at Horticultural University Budapest. Postgraduate education was PhD., D.Sc. (Habilitus) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. As scientific positions, Gábor Jenser was Assistant Professor, Head of Department and Scientific Councilor in Plant Protection Institute where he activated till 2015. The value of his researches was appreciated by receiving a lot of medals and the title of Laureatus Academiae of Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Over three decades of teaching at the Horticultural University Budapest, many generations of students were inspired by the clarity of his lecture, by his general scientific culture. He conducted some Ph.D. students in the



Photo 1. Prof. Ph.D., D.Sc. Gábor Jenser.

frame of *Thysanoptera* insects. The main research topics varied: faunistic and ecology of *Thysanoptera*, integrated pest management in orchards, vector of plant viruses.

Gábor Jenser was president of the Hungarian Entomological Society, organizer of the International Symposium, president of Organising Committee of the Fourth European Entomological Congress and XIII International Symposium of the middle Europe in 1991. G. Jenser stimulated the exchange of knowledge in Thysanoptera by organizing international Thysanoptera Symposium. Under his supervision in Hungary, the Second (1987) and Fifth (1995) International Thysanoptera Symposium was held and Gábor Jenser was one of the founders of a new series of Symposia on Palaearctic Thysanoptera. Later he organized the first one in 2003.

He was active in the working group „Integrated Plant Protection in Orchards” of International Organisation for Biological Control. He published more than 200 articles along with a series books. His first book, published in 1982 presented a large compendium of Thysanoptera species in Hungary which was in those times the most important book about thrips in the world. This early publication was followed by several chapters in books in which G. Jenser developed faunistic check list of Thysanoptera from different habitats: Kiskunság National Park (1986), Bátorliget nature reseve(1991), Büke National Park (1996), Órség (2002). The book „Pests of plant cultivated in arable lands and in fruit gardens” (1998) received High Prize in 1998 and 2015.

He studied Thysanoptera from Algeria, Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Tunisia. He described three new species for science: *Melanthrips pelikani*, *Limothrips syriacus* and *Hoplothrips zurstrasseni*. G.Jenser was deeply interested in the problem of the *Thrips tabaci* races. He follows closely the ideas on virus transmission by some thrips species to the plants (2008). He works on some pests (Acari, Nematoda, Homoptera) together with the young colleagues.

I, Liliana Vasiliu Oromulu, have been working with Thysanoptera since my college years time, when I entered into communication with G. Jenser. Along the years we have published several common papers together with colleagues from Slovakia and Poland on the taxonomy and ecology of Thysanoptera in the Carpathian Mountains (2008).

An important compendium of all Thysanoptera species from Transylvania was a laborious work (2003). Our study on thrips sensitivity to air pollu-

tion was a first world study on such subject and was presented at the “2nd Symposium on Palaearctic Thysanoptera” in Slovenia 2007 and published in Hungary.

Over the years we worked on several fruitful projects under the umbrellas of the Romanian and Hungarian Academy of Sciences the most important among them was the first study on Thysanoptera in the peat bogs of Covasna and Harghita Districts of Romania” The comparative study of Thysanoptera fauna from peat bogs in various successional stages” (2009-2014). We jointly published a paper about a new species for the fauna of the country based on this research (2013). We planned a check list of thrips fauna of the peat bogs which is currently under development with Jenser colleague, Kinga Fetyko, as one of the authors. He developed vector coefficient and capability of *Thrips tabaci* in Europa and North America.

G. Jenser realized a rich collection of slides with the minuscule Thysanoptera species which was donated to the Hungarian Natural History Museum. He directed groups of researchers in the field of biology, ecology, economic importance of Thysanoptera as pests in agriculture and horticulture.

After celebrating 50 years of their marriage, three months later died



Photo 2. Edit and Gábor Jenser.

Gábor, and after another five months died and his wife, Edit, a strong woman who always stayed in the shadow of the great man and scientist, helping him modestly and dignity (Photo 2).

It is a great honor and a wonderful opportunity for the authors of this article to worked for so many years with the great Thysanopterologist G. Jenser. G. Jenser scientific contribution deserve to be celebrate in a wider Academic space, like this valuable journal.

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