

WOLFGANG FRIEDRICH WÜLKER, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

Wolfgang Wülker was born on 25 September 1925 at Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1952 he began working as a scientific assistant at the Hydrobiological Station Falkau

(later the Limnological Institute of the University of Freiburg, Walter Schliez-Institut). His initial publications were on fish, but papers on chironomids began appearing from 1956. He was at Falkau for about 10 years and added to the collection of the station both specimens from the Black Forest area, and specimens collected on his research trips to Spain (1954), Fennoscandinavia (1956), Sudan (1963), USA and Canada (1964).

He did his Habilitation in Zoology and Limnology on intersexuality in *Chironomus* and the biology of *Sergentia* at the University of Freiburg, in 1960. Then in 1962 he joined the University of Freiburg.

After his official retirement Wolfgang continued to work at the University, later transferring his laboratory to his home.

Wolfgang was involved in collaborations with colleagues in many countries during his long career, some of which lasted for many years and produced many publications. A photograph of Wolfgang with Jim Sublette in Portales, N.M. in 1964 was reproduced on page 6 of volume 21 of this newsletter. His collaboration with Jim Sublette, Jon Martin and later Mac Butler, has produced 16 papers from 1967 to the present; that with the Russian workers, notably Iya Kiknadze and her group, 15 since about 1993; seven with the Swiss group of Adolf Scholl; four with György Dévai and colleagues from Hungary; and numerous others with students or colleagues from Germany. Wolfgang's full bibliography of chironomid publications is attached.

Jon Martin
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My wife, Mary, and I first met Wolfgang and his wife, Dorothea, in Vienna at the 1959 SIL meeting. It was a most auspicious meeting for us which laid the groundwork for a collaborative 40+ years research team of Wuelker, Sublette and Sublette, which shortly thereafter was joined by Jon Martin who was then doing a postdoctoral in Ottawa at Canada Agriculture. The Sublettes were able

to get grants to visit Wuelker in Freiburg. In their brief stay there Jim and Wolfgang held endless discussions on midge taxonomy and Mary focused on getting a camera lucida drawing of some of the Keyl arms. Wolfgang became more entranced with the possibility of using polytene chromosomes in Chironomid taxonomy and phylogeny and spent some time in other labs in Germany becoming acquainted with methodology and cytotaxonomy in general.



Wolfgang Wülker. Photo NN

In 1965 Wolfgang was still working in the field of mermithid parasitism in Chironomidae and he was funded to come to the U.S. to attempt cross-inoculation of mermithid infective larvae into Nearctic samples. Wolfgang had worked with *Sergentia* and wanted to locate nearctic populations. He knew that John Stahl at the University of Indiana had worked on *Sergentia* in Crooked Lake. The Sublette family and Wuelker family met up in Indiana and spent a week together at Shafer Lake, where Jim's brother had lakeside acreage and a home. The Wuelkers pitched their camping trailer on the lawn and Jim and Wolfgang set out in search of *Sergentia*. We located a Crooked Lake on a topographic map, near Ft. Wayne. However, sampling that lake showed it was a shallow lake with only plumosus type larvae. The Wuelkers were anxious

to start a grand tour of the west and bought an old VW microbus in Monon from a dealer recommended by Jim's brother. Seven miles from where the dealership was, the motor fell out of the old VW. Jim's brother did a bit of arm twisting and they replaced the motor gratis. THEN the Wuelkers set off on the grand trip. After touring all of the national parks in the western United States, the Wuelkers ended up in Portales, NM where Jim was teaching. The University provided a guest apartment for the Wuelkers and they stayed there about 4 months. Wolfgang's infective larvae had moulted once as I recall but were still infective. We attempted to infect them into a plumosus type larva and a decorus type larva and a *Glyptotendipes* larva. No *Sergentia* were available. Infections occurred at a low rate but in all cases the mermithid died before moulting again.

Mary acquired the technique of making polytene chromosome squashes and produced several thousand over the next several years. Over the years Wolfgang returned again to Portales to sort through the growing collection of squashes accumulated there. We were most fortunate to make the association and receive the help from Patrick L. Hudson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who sent innumerable mature, fixed larvae with associated adults and larval/pupal skins. Much of this material was examined by Wolfgang and later by Jon Martin. Jon and Wolfgang were responsible for cytology and Jim and Mary, the larva, pupa and adults. Jim, in ENMU administration, was instrumental in establishing an in-house journal, *Studies in Natural Science* (Portales) which served as the publication vehicle for several of these joint studies.

Jim Sublette
Tucson

Chironomidae publications of W. Wülker

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