

## ANDRZEJ WIKTOR (1931–2018) – OBITUARY



Most of us still remember the 2011 paper we published to celebrate Professor Wiktor's 80th birthday (*Folia Malacologica* 19 (4): 193–200). In fact all that issue of the *Folia* was dedicated to him. Regretfully, Professor Andrzej Wiktor passed away on December 31st 2018, and was buried on January 8th 2019 in the Holy Family Cemetery in Wrocław.

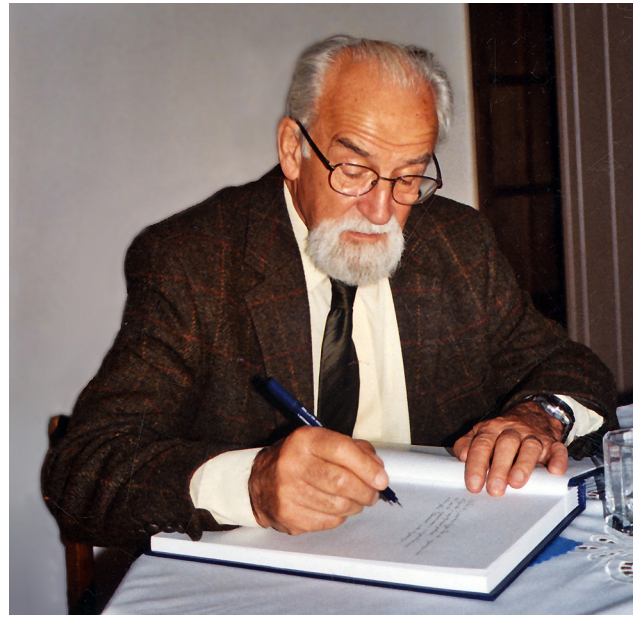
Andrzej Hubert Wiktor was born on the 4th of February 1931 in Nowa Wieś on the Wisłok River, near Rzeszów, where the family lived almost till the end of World War II. His father was Józef Wiktor, a landowner, married to Maria Wiktor neé Łoś. Andrzej was the youngest of four children, he had two brothers and a sister. The eldest, Józef (1923–2000), was an ichthyologist, professor at Gdańsk University, Stanisław (1926–2007) was a ship-building engineer, and Krystyna Wiktor-Jacobson (born 1927) is a painter. Andrzej Wiktor went to elementary school in the nearby town of Czudec near Rzeszów and fin-

ished it during the war. In 1944 the family moved to Gorlice and, after the war, to Sopot on the Baltic Coast. This is why Andrzej started his secondary school education in Gorlice just after the war, but continued in Sopot, and then in Gdynia-Orłowo where he passed his school-leaving exams in 1949. In the same year he started his biological studies at Poznań University where then it was only possible to get a bachelor's degree but not masters'. At the same time, he started his first scientific studies, actively working in the Scientific Circle of Naturalists at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Poznań University. Being a bright and hard-working student, he was allowed to continue his studies in zoology at one of the two universities in the country which then offered masters' courses (Wrocław and Warsaw). In 1954 Wiktor passed his masters' exams in Wrocław and obtained his degree at the Faculty of Natural Sciences. In the same year he married



Jadwiga Kwiecińska, also a biologist: parasitologist. Their daughter Zofia (biologist: anthropologist) was born in 1955. Andrzej's wife Jadwiga died in 1997. In 2002 he married Hanna Mizgajska. His second wife (parasitologist) is yet another biologist in the family. Prof. Wiktor has three grandchildren: Paweł, Anna and Zofia, and four great-grandchildren. Since his second marriage he lived part time in Poznań, his second wife's home town, and part time in Wrocław.

Andrzej Wiktor's first job, and he was still a student then, was a half-time job at the Chair of Biology, Medical University in Wrocław. Till 1958 his consecutive positions were assistant, senior assistant and adjunct [associate professor]. His main duties at the Medical University were teaching, organisation and administration, leaving virtually no time for research. In that period he practiced malacology as his private hobby. He studied molluscs on Sundays and during holidays. Fortunately, he could always ask for help of two of the Poznań professors, his ex-teachers. He published those early papers in the journal of the Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences. Having obtained his doctoral degree in 1962, Andrzej Wiktor moved to the Natural History Museum, Wrocław University, where he worked full time till 2002. He habilitated in 1971, became professor in 1980 and ordinary professor in 1989.



In 1963–2002 A. Wiktor held various posts not only at the Museum but also at the University (for details see *Folia Malacologica* 19: 193–200, 2011: Appendix I). In 1984 he was elected Rector Magnificus, but for political reasons (the fairly recent Martial Law, the fact that he was never a member of any political organisation and known to be opposed to the communist system) the then Minister of Science and Higher Education refused to endorse the election on the ground that Wiktor as rector “would not ensure the proper socialist upbringing of the students”. At the Medical University and later at Wrocław University he taught parasitology, malacology and ecology. He was supervisor of three and referee of 14 doctoral theses (six of them malacological), seven habilitation dissertations (six of them malacological) and 15 applications for professorship (six of them malacological). He remained active (both scientifically and as a teacher and organiser) for a long time after his retirement; mainly he continued his malacological work as a volunteer at the Museum and was active in the prestigious Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Andrzej Wiktor was active in a variety of institutions and organisations outside the University, as well as in editorial boards and committees. It is hardly possible to list all his activities and memberships, but when we were preparing the 2011 article to celebrate his 80th birthday, we tried to make the list as complete as possible (see *Folia Malacologica* 19: 193–200, 2011: Appendix I). Wiktor's achievements in many various fields earned him an array of awards and distinctions (see *Folia Malacologica* 19: 193–200, 2011: Appendix I).

From very early on Wiktor was interested in zoology and, more specifically, in terrestrial gastropods, especially slugs. He himself regarded two professors





from Poznań University as his mentors: Prof. Jan Rafalski and Prof. Jarosław Urbański. Initially he dealt with all terrestrial gastropods, especially those of Poland, from faunistic and zoogeographical point of view. This stage in his scientific career included the period till his doctorate. Soon, he started studying slugs from systematic and phylogenetic point of view, first in Poland and then worldwide. The beginnings were difficult because there was no specialist in the group in the country (there were only five such specialists in the world then, all of them beginners). Apart from one single paper published in 2017 (WIKTOR A., KOBOS A. M. 2017. O badaniach ślimaków przez sześć dekad. In: KOBOS A. M. (ed.). *Po drogach uczonych*. PAU, 6, pp. 581–611), all his publications are listed in the *Folia Malacologica* (19: 193–200, 2011: Appendix II). The total number of publications is 107, most of them (78) mainly or exclusively about slugs; they include 11 books or book chapters. Most of them are richly illustrated by the Author who was a very good artist. Nearly all of them were published in English or German thus making them available to researchers worldwide; only some in Polish or Russian. They appeared in Polish, German, Dutch, English, Belgian, Russian, Hungarian and American journals. Andrzej Wiktor collaborated with many malacologists within the country and abroad (Russia, Greece, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Spain, Belgium, Italy, India, China, USA, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Israel, Tunisia).

Wiktor's slug papers deal with systematics, morphology, ecology, biogeography and phylogeny. His main scientific achievements include proposing a new, original system of slug classification (in co-authorship with I. M. Likharev), studying and applying the structure of pallial complex in phylogenetic studies (with I. M. Likharev), documenting parallel



evolution in slugs, demonstrating the role of spermatophores as hybridisation barrier in the Milacidae, monographs of Milacidae, Parmacellidae, Anadenidae, Agriolimacidae, as well as the first monographs of the slugs of Poland, Bulgaria, ex-Yugoslavia, Greece, Pakistan, China, ex-USSR and its adjacent countries (some with co-authors), description of numerous new taxa (see below), synonymisation of several dozen names, and the analysis of endemism of the Balkan slugs. He described, as the only author or with collaborators, about 60 new species, as well as some new genera, subfamilies and a family (see *Folia Malacologica* 19: 193–200, 2011: Appendix III). He revised taxonomy as well as distribution of the slug families Milacidae, Parmacellidae, Anadenidae, Agriolimacidae and Limacidae. The series of papers on the fauna of Lower Silesia was a significant contribution to the knowledge of the region. Other malacologists, especially beginners dealing with the terrestrial malacofauna of Central Europe, highly appreciate Wiktor's guide to terrestrial gastropods of Poland, published in 2004 and the first such guide since the publication of Urbański's guide of 1957.

Till now, during more than 50 years, he managed to accumulate the world's most abundant and species-rich collection of slugs (see *Folia Malacologica* 15: 83–93, 2007), now at the Natural History Museum in Wrocław. He mainly collected them himself during his field trips in Poland, as well as Croatia, Turkey, Bulgaria, ex-Yugoslavia, Greece, Spain, Italy,





Tadzhikistan, Papua-New Guinea and China; some he obtained through exchange with other slug enthusiasts.

His hobbies, besides slugs, were travel, especially hiking, as well as literature: fact, travel, biographies and history.

Professor Wiktor became honorary member of our Association in 1997 at the 14th Polish Malacological Seminar (see RIEDEL A., POKRYSZKO B. M. 1999. *Malakologia Polska. Historia, stan obecny, perspektywy*. Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe: Appendix 2).

Professor Wiktor was a very friendly and open person, always ready to extend his helping hand to those who needed it. He was invariably delighted each time he met somebody young who was inclined to pursue malacological career. Many of us, both young and somewhat older, asked for his help and received it. No matter if the help involved advice (scientific or not), drying our tears, lending us money, identifying our slugs, giving us the run of his collection or making his superb slug illustrations available for use in our publications, he was always there for us. Those of us who profited from his malacological help and advice include Ewa Stworzewicz, Tomasz K. Maltz, Beata M. Pokryszko, Heike Reise, Magdalena Marzec, Grita Skujiene, Tomasz Kałuski, Robert A. D. Cameron, Moysis Mylonas, Ramon Martin, Cristina Parejo, Wu Ming, Andrzej Lesicki and many others. The late Professor Adolf Riedel (for obituary see *Folia Malacologica* 18: 51–57, 2010) – the zonitid specialist – was for many years Wiktor's very good friend. The two professors collected materials for each other during their numerous travels. Andrzej Wiktor was a very good and reliable companion in the field, with a great sense of humour and a story teller's talent; he communicated very well with pets and small children. He was not only an outstanding and well-known scientist (those are many), but also very much liked as a per-

son, as shown by the vast numbers of mourners at his funeral. The Association of Polish Malacologists was represented by (listed alphabetically): Elżbieta Kuźnik-Kowalska, Andrzej Lesicki, Jarosław Maćkiewicz, Tomasz K. Maltz, Beata M. Pokryszko, Małgorzata Proćków and Ewa Stworzewicz. Andrzej Lesicki, on behalf of the Polish malacologists, gave a farewell speech dedicated to Professor Andrzej Wiktor during the funeral meeting of the Senate of the University of Wrocław, preceding the funeral ceremony.

Let us honour Professor Andrzej Wiktor not by mourning and weeping, for he certainly would not want that, but by doing good, decent malacology.

Postscript. A sad but true reflection. When we are young, we are immortal or we think we are. With the departure of the first one of those we love, be it a parent, a sibling, or a friend, we realise we ourselves are not immortal and it comes as a shock. This loss of immortality continues as we live on: with the loss of anyone who is close to us, we lose yet another fraction of our own immortality. The fewer of us remain, the less immortal we become.

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