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## The biting midges rule(s)—Professor Ryszard Szadziewski

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**FIGURE 1.** Professor Ryszard Szadziewski in amber forest—exhibition of Museum of Amber Inclusions, Faculty of Biology, University of Gdańsk (2013). Photo: Elżbieta Sontag.

Professor Ryszard Szadziewski's adventure with entomology started in 1968 with his participation in the “Wielka Gra” (The Great Game) Polish TV 1 game show. With his mathematics and physics background and mind, he took a part in this contest as an amateur (it was one of the rules of the show). Even though he did not win this contest, he won entomology as a passion and profession.

His path to being an eminent specialist and authority in

Ceratopogonidae and nematoceran flies was long, winding, and bumpy. Professor Szadziewski was born January 2, 1948 in Silec, Kętrzyn district. Education started in primary school at Silec in 1955–1962, and then the W. Kętrzyński Secondary School (1962–1966). After completing his secondary education, Professor Szadziewski enrolled at the two-year Teacher Training College in Olsztyn. His specialities were physics and mathematics. After



**FIGURE 2.** **A**, Ryszard meeting Maria Małgorzata. **B**, After the master's theses defence (1973). **C**, Conference and meeting of the Section of Fossil Insects, Polish Entomological Society, Gdańsk 1988. From the left: Henryk Garbarczyk, Stanisław Głogowski, Barbara Kosmowska-Ceranowicz, Aleksander Herczek, Róża Kulicka, Jerzy Pawłowski, Jan Koteja, Ryszard Szadziewski, Tadeusz Giecwicz, Antoni Kuśka, Andrzej Pierzyński, Andrzej Skalski, Jerzy Gutowski. **D**, With 'sękacz' Masurian cake (a Baumkuchen, Bankuchenas) at the Department of Zoology UG in Gdynia (1993). **E**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress on Palaeoentomology "Fossil Insects", Kraków 2001, with Andrew Ross, Hans Werner Hoffsins and Emma DuBois. Photos **A–D**: Family archives, **E**: Elżbieta Sontag.

graduating, the Professor worked at the Special Education Centre in Kętrzyn, where he was a form teacher for one year. In October 1969, after passing the entrance exams, he began to study biology at the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. These studies aided both his further work and

his private life—it was at Toruń where he met his future wife—Maria Małgorzata Łukomska (later commonly called by Professor as 'spouse-friend'). During his studies he actively participated in student scientific groups and camps, together with entomology enthusiasts from other Polish universities (*e.g.*, lepidopterist Professor Jarosław



**FIGURE 3.** **A**, During 44<sup>th</sup> conference of Polish Entomological Society, Spała 2001, with Stanislaw Czachorowski, Paweł Buczyński and Jerzy Gutowski. **B**, Lazy afternoon - four bug-men and lonely fly-man—Fossils X3 Congress, Vitoria (2007), with Piotr Wegierek, Aleksander Herczek, Ernst Heiss and Yuri A. Popov. **C**, Members of the World Amber Council during the signing of the Council's Founding Act at the Uphagen House in Gdańsk, Poland, in the presence of Mayor of the City of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz, 28 June 2006 (Ulf Erichson, Wiesław Gierłowski, Zoya Kostyashova, Alexander K. Krylov, Wiesław Krzemiński, Adam Koperkiewicz, Wolfgang Weitschat, Paweł Adamowicz of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Barbara Kosmowska-Ceranowicz, Kazimieras Mizgiris, Olena Belichenko, Walentyna Rakiel-Czarnecka (Alicja Zobel Authorised Representative), Ewa Rachoń, Ryszard Szadziewski, Mariusz Gliwiński (hidden behind: Alexander A. Zhuravlev and Zbigniew Strzelczyk), Gdańsk, 28 June 2006. **D**, Amberif 2008, with Jonas Danzen and his sensational solpugid in Baltic amber. **E**, Meeting of the palaeontomological group—some new challenges in front, Gdańsk 2008. Photos **A**: Elżbieta Sontag, **B**, **D**, **E**: Jacek Szwedo, **C**: Piotr Kowalczyk.

Buszko, hymenopterist Professor Tadeusz Pawlikowski, coleopterist Professor Lech Borowiec and dipterists: Professor Wiesław Krzemiński and late Dr. Bogusław

Soszyński). These resulted also in his first scientific paper (Szadziewski *et al.*, 1973). During the studies his interest was focused on nematoceros flies, which resulted in his



**FIGURE 4.** **A**, With Bartłomiej Kentzer during conference “the Role of Gdańsk in Amber Inclusion Research” Museum of Amber, Gdańsk 2008 (conference celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Museum of Amber Inclusions of the University of Gdańsk). **B**, Ceremony of the opening of the exhibition Museum of Amber Inclusions—“Life in amber forest” in new building of Faculty of Biology, University of Gdańsk (2013) with the Dean of the Faculty of Biology UG—Professor Dr hab. Dariusz Szlachetko and Elżbieta Sontag. **C**, Palaeoentomologists after-Congress meeting in Edinburgh (Fossils X3 2016). **D**, Leading Amber Parade with Robert Pytlos (Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk for amber), during the Amber Festival in Gdańsk (2014). **E**, During working visit of World Amber Council in Nida, Lithuania, in 2016, with Dariusz Jasaitis (Mayor of Neringa community) and Kazimieras Mizgiris, member of WAC and owner of Amber Museum in Nida. Photos **A**, **B**, **D**, **E**: Jacek Szewdo, **C**: Family archives.

master’s thesis, tutored by Professor Melityna Gromadzka. The subject of investigation was the Cecidomyiidae of the Piwnicki Forest near Toruń (Pryszczarkowate (Diptera:

Cecidomyiidae) Lasu Piwnickiego koło Torunia) and the thesis was defended in 1974. Upon graduating, he worked in the Natural History Museum of the Nicolaus



**FIGURE 5.** **A**, Digging in a dirt—Jurassic amber site Beit Mounzer, Lebanon (2010). **B**, Carrying the stones is a collective work (Baalbek, Lebanon, 2010), with Wiesław Krzemiński and Jacek Szwedo. **C**, No pain, no gain—working in “Szadziwoszczyzna” property, Wyskok (*ca.* 1998). **D**, Collecting flies with wife. **E**, In Wyskok with friends: Hans Werner Hoffeins, Jonas Damzen, Christel Hoffeins and Baja the dog (2007). **F**, Celebration of Amber Personality of the Year 2018—Amberif (2019), with Jacek Szwedo and Mariusz Gliwiński (probe needle with amber and diploma for Amber Personality 2018). Photos: **A**: Jacek Szwedo, **B**: Dany Azar, **C–E**: Family archives, **F**: Bartłomiej Kentzer.

Copernicus University in Toruń (1975) and the same year he got married. Then, he moved to Gdańsk, and in September 1975 became a teacher in Secondary Schools Nos. VI and VII in Gdańsk, and then, in February 1976, started working as Assistant at the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia.

Professor Ryszard Szadziwski’s activity at Gdańsk University commenced in 1978, when he became a researcher and university teacher at the Laboratory of Invertebrate Zoology (since 1981—Department of Invertebrate Zoology). Soon after, he presented his Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Diptera of saline habitats of Poland”

(Muchówki (Diptera) siedlisk zasolonych Polski) under the tutorship of Professor Maciej Mroczkowski. The dissertation was defended at the Institute of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw in 1979. Since early 1980s he drew attention to a relatively weakly known family of nematoceran flies—the Ceratopogonidae. We do not know exact reasons, why biting midges took Professor's Szadziewski attention—maybe their disheveled appearance (see Professor's photos of these times) or their biting and blood-feeding behavior (Professor is well known for his snappy character and 'biting' commentaries).

Biting midges, in Polish "kuczmany" or "kuczmanowate" the vernacular name derives from an old word of probably Turkish origin "ketche" meaning a fur or felt cap, a horse rug, as well as disheveled hair or a bundle of tangled ropes, threads, *etc.* (Linde, 1808; Gloger, 1902; Karłowicz *et al.*, 1902). This name, in respect to the biting midge *Ceratopogon flavipes* [now *Palpomyia flavipes* (Meigen, 1804)], appeared in Nowicki's (1876) handbook and Majewski's (1891) dictionary and as a vernacular name of *Ceratopogon* Meigen, 1803 in the dictionary of Majewski (1894). Alas, none of these sources clearly indicate origin and etymology of this vernacular name. With Professor Szadziewski's interest in these flies, the vernacular Polish name of biting midges also became better known and popular.

In the subsequent years of his work, Professor Ryszard Szadziewski became a world-famous specialist and taxonomist in both the Recent and the fossil Ceratopogonidae. His scientific activities covered faunistics, zoogeography and systematics of biting midges in Poland and abroad (*e.g.*, collected during a trip to Algeria). His first papers dealing with fossils appeared in the middle of the 1980s (Szadziewski, 1984, 1985; Szadziewski & Szadziewska, 1985), the latter describing the first *Culex* mosquito from the Eocene Baltic amber. It was in fact palaeoentomology and extinct Ceratopogonidae entombed in amber that became the subject of his research resulting in his habilitation dissertation. This work, entitled "Biting midges (Diptera, Ceratopogonidae) from Baltic amber" (Kuczmany (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) bursztynu bałtyckiego) was defended in 1987 at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. A few years later, in 1991, Professor Ryszard Szadziewski was nominated university professor in recognition of his scientific research, didactics and teaching, and organisational activities. Further progress in research and other activities led him to his receiving the title of Professor in 1996. Professor Szadziewski is an active participant in the life of the University of Gdańsk. From 1990 to 1993 he was Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Biology, and in years 1991–2017 he headed the Department of Invertebrate Zoology (since 2012—

the Department of Systematic Zoology and Parasitology) (Kaczorowska, 2013). He was the supervisor for seven Master's theses and a Doctoral thesis on amber and its inclusions, as well as over 50 Master's and six Ph.D. theses on recent Diptera. He was also reviewer and member of jury for several dozens of Ph.D., habilitation (D.Sc) and full professorship procedures. In recognition of his scientific and teaching work he was awarded with the Silver Cross of Service in 1998 and the Medal of the National Education Commission in 1999. Professor Szadziewski's efforts brought into existence the laboratory of the Museum of Amber Inclusions at University of Gdańsk, established by the University of Gdańsk Senate's Resolution of 28 May 1998. Its first specimens came from his private scientific collection of 133 inclusions, which he donated to the University's newly founded museum (Sontag *et al.*, 2015, 2018; Szadziewski & Sontag, 2015). Now, the Museum collections houses over 15,000 specimens. Professor Szadziewski's high level of professionalism and commitment is also expressed in his efforts and work in the integration of the Polish entomological community and his participation in the activities of the Polish Entomological Society (PTE), of which he has been a member since 1972, and a Board member since 1995. Being an active member of the Polish Entomological Society, he promoted Diptera, founding in 1980, together with Jolanta Wiedeńska, Małgorzata Szadziewska, Adam Burkiewicz, Wiesław Krzemiński, Waldemar Mikołajczyk and Bogusław Soszyński the Dipterological Section of PES, for which he was president from 1990 to 1996. It is Professor's idea to proclaim among Polish entomologists grouped at the Dipterological Section of the Polish Entomological Society, World Dipteran Day, which is celebrated annually on 15 November. Professor Szadziewski is also a founding member of the Fossil Insects Section (since 2005 the Palaeoentomological Section) of the Polish Entomological Society, for which he was the Chairman in 2004–2008 (Szadziewski *et al.*, 2015). He was also editor-in-chief of the *Polish Journal of Entomology* (1995–2001, 2011–2013), which on his initiative was put on the Versita internet platform, thus increasing the readership of its articles. For his involvement in the Society's work, Professor Szadziewski was honoured with the medal "For services to the development of the Polish Entomological Society" (1998), the Golden Badge of the PTE (2004), and since 2008 has been a Honorary Member of the Society. He offered his services as an editor or board member of other scientific journals: *Annales Zoologici* (since 2003), *Dipteron*, *Bulletin of the Dipterological Section of the Polish Entomological Society* (since 2007), *Annals of the Upper Silesian Museum* (since 2007), *Fragmenta Faunistica* (since 2009) as well as *Palaeoentomology* (since 2018). His

professional knowledge and experience supported the Scientific Council of the Institute of Systematics and Animal Evolution of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) in Krakow (1996–1998, 2011–2014), as well as the Scientific Council of the Museum and Institute of Zoology PAN in Warsaw (2003–2006, 2007–2010, 2011–2014).

His other merits for the promotion of amber, knowledge on amber and its inclusions and all aspects of amber studies are indisputable. His membership and activities in international societies and bodies—International Amber Association (1998–onwards)—in 2015 he received Honorary membership of IAA and in 2018 he obtained the prize of the Amber Personality of the Year, Arbeitskreis Bernstein (2000–onwards), the International Palaeontological Society (2001–onwards), the Amber Museum Council (2005–onwards), put amber and amber inclusions in the centre of interest of many, as perfect substance and source of invaluable information. It was his idea to promote city of Gdańsk as World Capital of Amber, he initiated establishment of the World Amber Council in 2006, whose President he has been since 2008 (Kentzer, 2019). Professor Szadziewski commemorated the name of Gdańsk in two generic names: *Gedanohoelea* and *Gedanoborus*, and in dozen of specific epithets.

Professor's previous activities resulted in over 200 papers: original contributions, books and monographs chapters, chapters in manuals, reviews and commentaries (see list below). He authored and co-authored 242 species names in various families, mainly Ceratopogonidae (222), Anisopodidae, Chironomidae, Chaoboridae, Corethrellidae, Culicidae, Cecidomyiidae, Psychodidae and Ptychopteridae, 19 generic names and one tribe. His name is currently honoured in 13 patronyms (see below). In spite of all these works and activities, Professor Szadziewski has time for hobbies. He is strongly attached to nature. Dogs and cats have always been part of his life, sometimes intentional, sometimes by chance. For years he was attached to Central Asian Ovcharkas Baja, and now to Bajon. In 1990 he became the owner of a small farm in the village of Wyskok in the Masurian Lakeland region (north eastern Poland). The neglected plot became the multi-hectare property called “Szadziewszczyzna”, to which all guests are welcome. A few meetings of the Dipterological Section of PES were held at Wyskok and materials for many M.Sc. theses have been collected and prepared there. He tries to integrate the local and newcomer community in the Society of Friends of Wyskok, which he initiated and of which he has been president since 2004. This activity has also been recognized and honoured—in 1998 Professor Szadziewski received the Medal of Remembrance of the City of Kętrzyn. Country life is sometimes resulting in troubles with animals—Professor dislikes the beavers destroying his pond, he complains about the otters eating

fish from the pond, martens rummaging in the building and activating the alarm system, woodpeckers digging holes in the insulation, but these are the charms of living in the wild. Nesting storks have settled on the property, they lead out young storks, but sometimes ... attacking the Professor's car. The environs of Wyskok are rich in mushrooms, and Professor's friends are picking them each year—this passion led to another paper (Hoffeins *et al.*, 2017). Another of Professor Szadziewski's hobbies is collecting. His houses in Gdańsk and in Wyskok are decorated with Vienna clocks, a collection of metal bells, pictures, figurines and sculptures of owls, eagles and roosters. These houses were places of growth of Professor's daughters—Katarzyna and Barbara, and currently four grandchildren—Lena, Bruno, Melania and Anatol.

Professor Ryszard Szadziewski achieved full pension entitlements in 2018, but is still very active in research and publishing. He can now devote more attention to hosting at Wyskok, but amber and inclusions are still on his mind. His achievements are regularly posted on the Department's websites: [https://kzbp.biol.ug.edu.pl/pages/pl/o-katedrze/pracownicy\\_doktoranci/szadziewski\\_r.php](https://kzbp.biol.ug.edu.pl/pages/pl/o-katedrze/pracownicy_doktoranci/szadziewski_r.php)

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- i pomnożone porównawczym materiałem zaczerpniętym z innych języków słowiańskich. Tom I. Słownik polsko-laciński. Od Abolboda do Mieluk. Nakładem prenumeratorów, Warszawa, i-lx+1-546+lx-lxiv.*
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**Appendix 1. Patronyms honouring Professor Ryszard Szadziwski (without those included in this issue)**

- †*Archiaustroconops szadziwskii* Borkent, 2000 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Lebanese amber, Lower Cretaceous)
- †*Atriculicoides szadziwskii* Perez-de la Fuente, Delclòs, Peñalver & Arillo, 2011 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Spanish amber, Lower Cretaceous)
- Baeoura szadziwskii* Krzemiński & Starý, 1984 (Diptera: Limoniidae; Recent, Algeria)
- Brachypogon szadziwskii* Grogan & de Meillon, 1993 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Recent, Senegal)
- †*Caladomyia szadziwskii* Gilka & Zakrzewska, 2013 (Diptera: Chironomidae; Baltic amber, Eocene)
- Camptomyia szadziwskii* Spungis, 1989 (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae; Recent, Latvia, Poland, Sweden)
- †*Dactylolabis (Idiolabis) ryszardi* Kania & Krzemiński, 2015 (Diptera: Limoniidae; Baltic amber, Eocene)
- †*Eupseudopomyza szadziwskii* Hoffeins & Woźnica, 2013 (Diptera: Pseudopomyzidae; Eocene Baltic amber)
- Palpomyia ryszardi* Spinelli & Ronderos, 2013 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Recent, Peru)
- †*Serromyia ryszardi* Borkent, 1990 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Baltic amber, Eocene)
- †*Sinaxymyia szadziwskii* Blagoderov & Lukashovich, 2013 (Diptera: Axymyiidae; Buryatia, Lower Cretaceous)
- Stilobezzia (Acanthomyia) szadziwskii* Chaudhuri & Das Gupta, 1991 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; Recent, India)
- †*Thaumastoptera ryszardi* Krzemiński, 1985 (Diptera: Limoniidae; Baltic amber, Eocene)

## Appendix 2. Publications of Ryszard Szadziewski (1973–2020)

### 1973:

1. Szadziewski, R., Pawlikowski, T. & Buszko, J. (1973) Nowe gatunki muchówek (Diptera), błonkówek (Hymenoptera) i motyli (Lepidoptera) dla Pienin. *Przegląd Zoologiczny*, 17, 192–195 [In Polish].

### 1975:

2. Szadziewski, R. (1975a) Some non-gall making Cecidomyiidae (Diptera) from Yugoslavia. *Polish Journal of Entomology*, 45, 571–574.
3. Szadziewski, R. (1975b) Materiały do poznania Syrphidae (Diptera) okolic Torunia oraz Pojezierza Mazurskiego. *Notatki Przyrodnicze (Poznań)*, 11, 27–48 [In Polish].
4. Szadziewski, R. (1975c) *Arnoldiola margaritae* sp. n. (Cecidomyiidae, Diptera) from Poland. *Polish Journal of Entomology*, 45, 365–368.

### 1976:

5. Szadziewski, R. (1976) Notes on gall midges (Cecidomyiidae, Diptera) from Poland. I. *Polish Journal of Entomology*, 46, 729–743.

### 1977:

6. Wilkoń-Michalska, J. & Szadziewski, R. (1977) Beziehungen zwischen der Flora und insbesondere der Dipterenfauna der Binnenlandsaltzböden von Kujawy. In: Tüxen R. (Ed.), *Vegetation und Fauna*, 16, 253–264.
7. Szadziewski, R. (1977a) *Telmatogeton gedanensis* sp. n. (Clunioninae, Chironomidae, Diptera)—new marine chironomid from the Polish Baltic coast. *Polish Journal of Entomology*, 47, 175–184.
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