

Foreword

Anyone involved in research into the natural history of the Himalayas will certainly come across the publications of Jochen Martens or papers based on material collected by him. The same is true for the field of avian systematics and bioacoustics and for the taxonomy and systematics of harvestmen. On the occasion of the retirement of Prof. Dr Jochen Martens from the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, his colleagues from all over the world would like to honour him with scientific contributions compiled in this commemorative publication.

Jochen Martens was born on the 10th of June 1941 in Jena in Thuringia. During the post-war years, from 1948 to 1962, he attended schools in Weimar, Jena, Berlin, Bad Godesberg and Stuttgart-Vaihingen. He then studied biology, chemistry, palaeontology, geology and geography in Mainz, at the Johannes Gutenberg-University, and graduated in 1967. His PhD study (1967–1968) treated a taxonomic-systematic approach to the harvestman genus *Ischyropsalis* and was supported by a grant from the Volkswagen-Fund. In 1969 and 1970 he spent 16 months doing fieldwork in Nepal, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). A period as scientific assistant and assistant professor led to his 1975 post-doctoral 'Habilitation' thesis, a taxonomic-systematic study of tits in the Himalayas. In 1979 he was appointed professor of zoology. Since then, he has focused his research activities on three main topics: ornithology, harvestmen and the fauna and zoogeography of the Himalayas.

From the very beginning of his studies, Martens' scientific research has been stimulated by his deep fascination with birds and their behaviour, especially their vocal repertoires. During his numerous expeditions to European and Asian countries sound recording soon became a major part of his field work, later augmented by tissue sampling for accompanying genetic analyses. His fundamental work on differentiation of territorial song and other vocal characters among Old World warblers (genus *Phylloscopus*), tits (genus *Parus*) and treecreepers (genus *Certhia*) confirmed the significance of bioacoustics for avian systematics and taxonomy. However, he soon recognized the importance of a multidimensional systematic approach, which combines classical methods like morphometry with modern techniques such as molecular genetics. Accordingly, Martens was always open to collaboration with scientists from different fields, notably with his long-time colleague and friend, the late Siegfried Eck, and his collaborative partners A.A. Nazarenko from Russia and Y.-H. Sun from China. His basic research resulted not only in the discovery of cryptic species limits between closely related passerine taxa, but also in several descriptions of new species and subspecies (*Seicercus omeiensis*, *Regulus regulus ellenthalerae*, *Pnoepyga immaculata*, and *Parus ater eckodedicatus*). In total he produced some 100 scientific contributions to this field. During the 138th annual meeting of the German Ornitho-

logical Society in September 2005, Jochen Martens was awarded the "Deutscher Ornithologen-Preis" for his significant work on speciation in passerine birds.

At almost the same time as beginning his ornithological studies, Jochen Martens started his work on harvestmen. Focusing initially on the European fauna, he later investigated harvestmen from all over the world. Many of his 70 arachnological and entomological contributions quickly became standard works. In 1976 he established the 'Cyphopalpatores concept', which is once again hotly debated in the light of new molecular data and cladistical analyses. His 'Weberknechte Mitteleuropas', first published in 1978, has needed only slight changes or additions due to the extensive material examined for the volume, and the excellence of both the illustrations and the observations of the species biology and behaviour. Martens' investigations on harvestmen penis morphology are fundamental and led to important discoveries concerning their phylogenetic relationships. Not one to avoid challenges, he tackled the Gagrellinae from the Himalayas, probably the most difficult and puzzling group of Opiliones, in a work of some 130 pages. As in his ornithological studies, he had many collaborations, and included many approaches, such as DNA analyses in his study with Axel Schönhofer of the taxonomically difficult Trogludidae.

The third aspect of Jochen Martens' scientific activities, the research on the Himalayan fauna and flora, involved plenty of the activity he most enjoyed—field work. Almost every year he conducted expeditions, to Nepal and China of course, but also Iran, the former USSR (the Caucasus; West Siberia; central Asia: Kirgisia, Kazakhstan; the Russian Far East: the Amur region, Ussuria), India, Thailand, the Philippines, and also European countries such as Greece, Spain, France and the Czech Republic. These travels targeted scientific questions with specific taxa as a focus, and he collected a wealth of material not only of 'his' groups but for many specialists around the world. He liked to transfer his knowledge and expertise in co-operation with colleagues and friends on expeditions, and these were the richest opportunities for young scientists to share in Martens' profound knowledge and experience. Many colleagues travelled with him in different countries; some are recorded on collecting labels, some are included here as authors.

What was valid for his research activities, was also true for his private life; visitors were invited into his home, taking dinner with him and his family and being supplied with his wife Beate Martens' homemade 'Zwiebelkuchen' (onion pie) or 'Weihnachtsstollen' (Christmas cake) in due season, along with unlimited amounts of green tea that he brought from China. Insiders know that early autumn is the best time to visit Prof. Martens, when Mainz and the Martens family offer local specialities like 'Federweisser' (new white wine) traditionally served together with 'Zwiebelkuchen' — something not to be missed. No matter whether in a tent at an altitude of 3000m or in a monastery after two weeks of bad weather Jochen Martens was (and still is) full of energy, never tired and always good-humoured. He was, and is, a yardstick in many disciplines, never losing his kindness and patience!

Without doubt Jochen Martens will continue his research and we wish him a pleasant and healthy retirement with his studies and his family!

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