



Preface

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To process a Festschrift is an honour and a unique opportunity to show respect to someone who made important contributions over many years in a special field of scientific research. In the case of Jochen Martens the contribution is to not only in one field, but in several: harvestmen, birds, high mountains, taxonomy, systematics, evolution etc.

Jochen Martens is probably one of the last true explorers. He travelled to so many countries, trying to understand nature and the delicate and complex ways of evolution, passing on his knowledge and experience to many generations of students and colleagues, at the same time staying a naturally warm-hearted friend and adviser. Some of his achievements and some facts about his life and research are given in the first contribution of this special issue. The fact alone that more than 230 taxa were named after him so far indicates the respect he received from the scientific community and the broad network of co-operation and collaboration he established over the years.

However, we have to apologize for not initiating this Festschrift at an earlier time, so that more colleagues would have had the chance to submit manuscripts in these Corona-impaired days when labs could not be visited and when field work was impossible. But there are additional contributions honouring Jochen Martens apart from the present compilation, e.g., by his first doctoral student, Wolfgang Schawaller (now already retired) in a Himalaya Research volume (Schawaller 2021), by Andrei Tanasevitch naming another spider species from Nepal after Jochen Martens (Tanasevitch 2021) or in more local journals like the *Arachnologische Mitteilungen* (Jäger *et al.* 2021).

Naturally, with Jochen Martens as a world-leading expert on harvestmen, the opilionological papers prevail within this volume, with 12 out of 23 papers and 32 out of 56 authors, respectively. Colleagues with an ornithological background would probably also have liked to contribute to honour Jochen Martens, but 1) birds are not as diverse as arthropods, thus papers are not equally easy to generate, and 2) some papers waiting for publication were co-authored by Jochen himself, which would obviously pre-empt the “surprise-effect” as he becomes a contributor to this Festschrift. Nevertheless, the variety of papers included in the present issue show a broad range covering four main orders of Arachnida as well as Myriapoda. Moreover, fields like taxonomy, systematics, ecology, and faunistics are dealt with, extant as well as extinct taxa are treated, new species are described and previously described ones are thoroughly revised. Taxa included in this Festschrift come from the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and New Caledonia, standing allegorically for the global and overarching approach Jochen Martens follows in his work. So we honestly hope that he will enjoy reading the papers written in his honour.

We thank Jochen Martens for his continuing scientific contributions and his friendship, and wish that he will carry on with his research and inspire more people around the globe.

Jäger, P., Komposch, C. & Schönhofer, A. (2021) Prof. Dr. Jochen Martens—Wissenschaftler aus Leidenschaft. Ein geschriebenes Ständchen zum 80. Geburtstag. *Arachnologische Mitteilungen*, 62, i–x.

Schawaller, W. (2021) Four new species of the genus *Laena* Dejean (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) from the Emei Shan in Sichuan, China, with remarks to the vertical distribution. In: Hartmann, M., Barclay, M. & Weipert, J. (Eds.), *Biodiversität und Naturausstattung im Himalaya. Vol. VII*. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums, Erfurt. [accepted]

Tanasevitch, A. V. (2021) New data on linyphiid spiders of Nepal (Arachnida: Araneae), with the description of a new genus and two species. *Revue suisse de Zoologie*, 128 (1), 107–119.

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