




Foreword

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It is highly possible that there is no person in the world today, who is working on aphids, that does not know Roger Blackman in some way. There is no aphidologist in the world who would not use the achievements and publications of Roger Blackman. It is impossible for modern aphid research to exist without Roger Blackman's work - for years as an employee and later as a research associate at the Natural History Museum in London and President of the Royal Entomological Society in London (1998-2000). On the occasion of Dr Roger Blackman's 80th birthday in 2021 his colleagues from all over the world wanted to honour him with scientific contributions compiled in this commemorative publication. Unfortunately, life is full of unexpected turns, and our dear friend and teacher did not live to see the end of this endeavour.

Roger Laurence Blackman was born on the 24th of July, 1941 in London. He obtained a Bachelor of Science with honours degree at the University of Bristol in 1962 and became a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of London in 1965. In 1973 Roger Blackman started his work at the Natural History Museum of London together with his great partner Victor Francis Eastop (1924–2012). From the beginning of his career, Roger was fascinated by many aspects of aphid biology and evolution. He was working on the apomictic parthenogenesis, chromosome translocation linked to insecticide resistance, androcyclus and taxonomy. Together with Victor Eastop, Roger created a world-famous duo of aphid experts. Their work resulted in the creation of the “bible of aphidology”—“Aphids on the World's Trees” and “Aphids on the World's Herbaceous Plants and Shrubs”. Later those books became a website, which was constantly updated - an invaluable treasury of information for several generations of aphidologists.

Those lucky enough to meet Roger in person will always remember the narrow and tight bays in the old building of the Natural History Museum. Bays enclosed with wardrobes filled with books, hundreds of publications, and the “green boxes” with tons of hand-written notes, drawings and measurements, which were the basis for the later books. Those fortunate enough to work with Roger in these bays remember seeing the busy scholar, taking notes and studying slides, so that more people could find new information on the “aphidsonworldsplants.info” website. Those who knew Roger only by correspondence will never forget the endless support, discussions, reviews and constructive criticism he gave, which was especially invaluable to the young adepts within the field of aphidology and gave them a new perspective on their manuscripts.

Roger worked until the very end, even in retirement. Undoubtedly, he passed away too early for us, his colleagues, friends and family.

We're sure, on the other side, there are aphid problems too, which can only be resolved by the irreplaceable Dr. Roger Blackman.

David Ouvrard and Mariusz Kanturski