

In memoriam Leopold Gschwendtner, 10.9.1899-7.3.1982

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In Memoriam Leopold Gschwendtner † 10.9.1899–7.3.1982

by **H. Schaefflein**

Abstract: Data on the life of L. Gschwendtner are given together with a compilation of new hydradephagan taxa he described.

Key words: Leopold Gschwendtner – obituary – publications – new taxa.

The famous specialist for Dytiscids, Leopold Gschwendtner, died on March the 7th 1982 at an age of 82 years. Although GUSENLEITNER (1982) published an obituary on L. Gschwendtner, data are now presented especially emphasizing Gschwendtner's importance as a hydradephagan taxonomist.



On September 10th in 1899, Leopold Gschwendtner was born in Linz (Austria). There he matriculated twenty years later and found a position in the upper Austrian province government after he had finished his military service. From his youth onwards, L. Gschwendtner was highly interested in nature, natural history and especially entomological questions. Very early his main interest was focused on hydradephagan water beetles and logically he contacted the most famous water beetle specialists of his time such as Guignot (Avignon), Peschet (Paris), Scholz (Liegnitz) and Zimmermann (Munich).

Particularly between 1920 and 1938, Gschwendtner revised a lot of water beetle collections from famous scientific excursions. As a result he produced numerous publications of high scientific value, dealing with dytiscids from Belgian-Congo, South Africa and China. From these overseas countries Gschwendtner described a great number of new species, a compilation of which is given below.

Due to his comprehensive knowledge on dytiscids, Gschwendtner continued and completed the excellent and important monography on Palearctic dytiscids when A. Zimmermann (Munich) died in 1929.

Newly described taxa such as *Cybister gschwendtneri* Guignot or *Gschwendtnerhydrus* Brinck further illustrate Gschwendtner's importance as a hydradephagan researcher.

His involvement concerning eugenic problems between 1922 and 1939 brought discredit upon Gschwendtner's life after the end of the second world war. He was dismissed, lost his home and had to give up all entomological activities for financial and medical reasons. In 1949 he even had to sell his valuable beetle collection to the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz, where specialists can still study the numerous types and paratypes. Without his collection and owing to the deterioration of his eyesight, Gschwendtner was not able to take up water beetle research again. He lived in seclusion and died on March 7 1982, forgotten by entomologists.

Leopold Gschwendtner will be remembered for his word and his collection.

List of new taxa described by L. Gschwendtner

This compilation seems necessary because Gschwendtner's publications appeared after the hydradephagan volume of the Coleopterorum Catalogus had been published. All new taxa described by Gschwendtner are listed here, even if these have later been placed in synonymy.

Genera and species are arranged in alphabetical order; numbers in brackets refer to the following bibliographical references.

Haliplidae

Haliphus zimmermanni n.sp. (1)

Peltodytes wui n.sp. (23)

Dytiscidae

- Amarodytes* *plaumanni* n.sp. (24)
undulatus n.sp. (36)
- Bidessus* *breddoi* n.sp. (35)
brevistriga unicolor n.ab. (14)
(later nero, 18)
devroyei n.sp. (14)
lenzi n.sp. (8)
maculosus n.sp. (11)
megacephalus n.sp. (10)
nero n.n. (18)
nero maculosus n.var. (35)
opacus n.sp. (26)
regimbarti n.sp. (30)
splendidus n.sp. (6)
venustulus n.sp. (18)
vitichumwii n.sp. (29 & 31)
- Brachybidessus* n.subgen. (36)
titschacki n.sp. (36)
- Canthydrus* *flavomaculatus* n.sp. (7)
laccophiloides n.sp. (7)
quadrivittatus contractosignatus n.ab. (26)
- Clypeodytes* *gracilis* n.sp. (16)
- Copelatus* *angustus* n.sp. (14)
burgeoni n.sp. (9)
collarti n.sp. (14)
congo n.sp. (33)
kalaharii n.sp. (26)
lepersonneae n.sp. (35)
marginalis n.sp. (13)
niger n.sp. (14)
parumstriatus n.sp. (22)
striatellus rufibasalis n.var. (33)
zimmermanni n.sp. (27)
- Cybister* *circumcinctus* n.sp. (13)
conduensis n.sp. (5)
incognitus n.sp. (12)
indicus n.sp. (12)
longulus n.sp. (13)
nebulosus n.sp. (12)
nigrescens n.sp. (19)
regimbarti n.sp. (12)
schoutedeni n.sp. (13)
senegalensis longulus n.var. (26)
tripunctatus orientalis n.ssp. (12)
- Dytiscus* *dauricus obscurus* n.var. (2)
stadleri n.sp. (2)
- Gaurodytes* *aequabilis* n.sp. (4)
biguttatus winkleri n.ssp. (4)
nebulosus immaculatus n.var. (5)
rufipennis n.sp. (16)
Hemibidessus plaumanni n.sp. (29 & 31)

<i>Herophydrus</i>	<i>cooperi</i> n.sp. (33) <i>erythraeus bifasciatus</i> n.var. (14) <i>expressus</i> n.sp. (33) <i>ignoratus</i> n.sp. (18) <i>kalaharii</i> n.sp. (26) <i>ovalis</i> n.sp. (14) <i>paradoxus</i> n.sp. (15)
<i>Hydaticus</i>	<i>congo</i> n.sp. (33) <i>fulvosparsus</i> n.sp. (32) <i>guignoti</i> n.sp. (32) <i>opaculus</i> n.sp. (18) <i>pescheti</i> n.sp. (9) <i>wittei</i> n.sp. (32)
<i>Hydrocanthus</i>	<i>congoanus</i> n.sp. (7) <i>consimilis</i> n.sp. (33) <i>impunctatus</i> n.sp. (13) <i>klarae</i> n.sp. (7) <i>parvulus</i> n.sp. (7) <i>ruficollis</i> n.sp. (7) <i>subplanatus</i> n.sp. (16) <i>wittei</i> n.sp. (9)
<i>Hydroporus</i>	<i>goldschmidti</i> n.sp. (4) <i>goldschmidti recidivus</i> n.var. (4) <i>guignoti</i> n.sp. (25) <i>macrocephalus</i> n.sp. (4) <i>pubescens transgrediens</i> n.ssp. (4)
<i>Hydrovatus</i>	<i>aequatorius</i> n.sp. (35) <i>bredoi</i> n.sp. (35) <i>globulosus</i> n.sp. (35) <i>laeviusculus</i> n.sp. (35) <i>macrocephalus</i> n.sp. (21) <i>niger</i> n.sp. (32) <i>pauxillus</i> n.sp. (35) <i>pulcher</i> n.sp. (21) <i>subparallelus</i> n.sp. (8)
<i>Hyphoporus</i>	<i>kempi</i> n.sp. (30) <i>rotundatus</i> n.sp. (10)
<i>Hyphydrus</i>	<i>burgeoni</i> n.sp. (8) <i>conradsi</i> n.sp. (18) <i>falkenströmi</i> n.sp. (34) <i>pictus indicus</i> n.var. (30) <i>schoutedeni</i> n.sp. (8) <i>wittei</i> n.sp. (32) <i>wui</i> n.sp. (16)
<i>Ilybius</i>	<i>fuliginosus turcestanicus</i> n.ssp. (20) <i>ovalis</i> n.sp. (20)
<i>Lacconectus</i>	<i>ovalis</i> n.sp. (30)
<i>scholzi</i>	Gschw. sp. propr. (20)
<i>simoni scholzi</i>	n.var. (3)
<i>Laccophilus</i>	<i>apicicornis nigritulus</i> n.var. (30) <i>burgeoni</i> n.sp. (7) <i>incrassatus</i> n.sp. (18) <i>kempi</i> n.sp. (30)

	<i>luteosignatus</i> n.sp. (35)
	<i>posticus continentalis</i> n.ssp. (26)
	<i>simplicistriatus</i> n.sp. (26)
	<i>solutus indicus</i> n.var. (30)
<i>Laccornis</i>	<i>breviusculus</i> n.sp. (25)
<i>Macrodytes</i>	<i>thianschanicus</i> n.sp. (4)
<i>Methles</i>	<i>punctatissimus</i> n.sp. (35)
	<i>umbrosus</i> n.sp. (9)
<i>Platambus</i>	<i>incrassatus</i> n.sp. (28)
	<i>lineatus</i> n.sp. (28)
<i>Rhantus</i>	<i>colymbetoides</i> n.sp. (15)
	<i>ovalis</i> n.sp. (30)
	<i>wittei</i> n.sp. (33)
<i>Suphisellus</i>	<i>minimus</i> n.sp. (3)
<i>Synchortus</i>	<i>desaegeri</i> n.sp. (29 & 31)
<i>Yola</i>	<i>swierstrai</i> n.sp. (26)

List of paper containing the description of new taxa

1. 1921. Ent. Anz. 1 (5): 56–63
2. 1922. Wiener Ent. Z. 39: 92–94
3. 1922. Ent. Anz. 2 (12): 134–135
4. 1923. Arch. Naturgesch., Abt. A, 89 (8): 93–111
5. 1927. Boll. Soc. Nat. Luxemburg, N.S.: 91–94
6. 1930. Ent. Anz. 10 (3): 45–46
7. 1930. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 19 (1): 79–90
8. 1930. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 19 (2): 180–182
9. 1930. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 19 (2): 208–223
10. 1931. Ent. Anz. 11 (1): 21
11. 1931. Ent. Anz. 11 (23): 462
12. 1931. Ent. Bl. 27 (3): 97–104
13. 1932. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 22 (1): 54–62
14. 1932. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 22 (3): 259–268
15. 1932. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 23 (1): 12–17
16. 1932/33. Peking Nat. Hist. Bull. 7: 159–164
17. 1933. Ent. Anz. 13 (6/7): 90–91
18. 1933. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 23 (2): 84–95
19. 1933. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 23 (2): 95–99
20. 1934. Ent. Anz. 14 (7/8): 73–75
21. 1934. Ent. Anz. 14 (9/10): 93–94

¹The short section by Gschwendtner in Zimmermann is missing from GUSENLEITNER's compilation (1984).

²This paper is identical to paper 29 but was also not included in GUSENLEITNER's compilation (1984)

22. 1934. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 24 (3): 281–283
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28. 1935. Koleopt. Rdsch. 21: 61–92
29. 1935. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 27 (3): 372–375
30. 1935. Rec. Ind. Mus. 37 (3): 365–374
31. 1936. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 29 (1): 17–20²
32. 1938. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 30 (3): 337–342
33. 1938. Expl. Parc National Albert, Mission G. F. de Witte (1933–1935).
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35. 1943. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 36 (4): 417–426
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Reference

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