

OBITUARY — ANDRZEJ HUBERT WIKTOR (FEBRUARY 4 1931–DECEMBER 31 2018)

Andrzej Wiktor, the youngest of four children, was born near Rzeszów, in south-east Poland in 1931. The greater part of his school years was spent in the terrifying conditions of occupied Poland in the Second World War. After the war, his schooling was completed in northern Poland, and in 1949 he started work for his Bachelor's degree in biology at Poznań University. He moved to the University of Wrocław to achieve his Master's Degree (1954) and gained his PhD in 1962. His researches were essentially a part-time and spare time activity, as he was employed by the Medical University of Wrocław solely as a teacher and administrator. Molluscs were for holidays and Sundays. He was helped in those early years by two professors from Poznań University: Prof. Jan Rafalski and Prof. Jarosław Urbański, whom he regarded as his mentors thereafter.

His PhD completed, Andrzej Wiktor moved to the Natural History Museum of Wrocław (a part of the University) in 1962, and worked there until his retirement in 2002, becoming its Director in 1980 and a State Professor in 1989. In addition to his duties at the Museum, he held important posts within the University and served on national bodies including the Polish Academy of

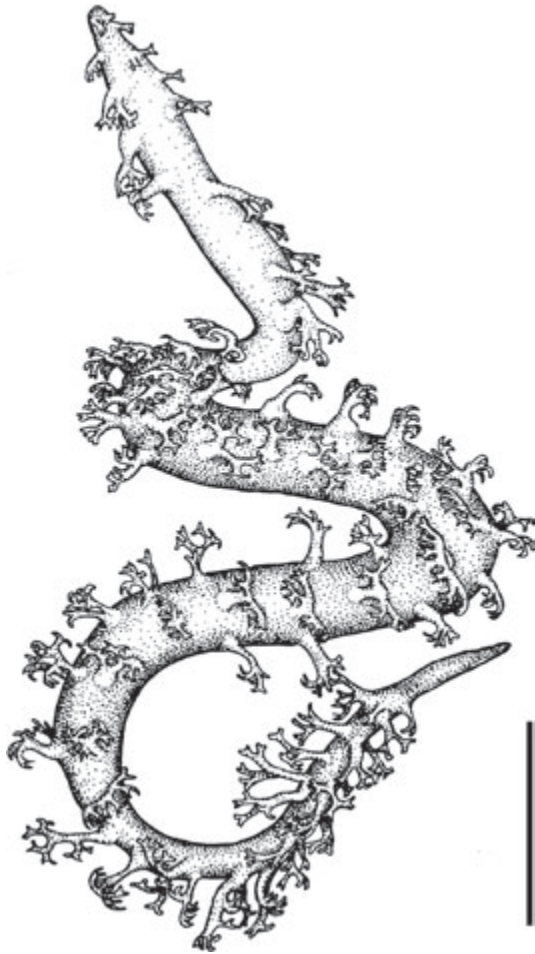
Sciences. A man of faith and staunch principle, he was elected by his colleagues to be Rector Magnificus of the University (the equivalent of our rank of Vice-Chancellor) in 1984, only for his appointment to be blocked by the then Minister of Science and Higher Education on the grounds that he "would not ensure the proper socialist upbringing of the students". He remained active (both scientifically and as a teacher and organiser) for a long time after his retirement; mainly he continued his malacological work as a volunteer at the Museum and was active in the prestigious Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences. A full account of his many and varied achievements and awards can be found in Volume 19(4) of *Folia Malacologica* (2011), a number acting as a *festschrift* celebrating his 80th birthday, including papers by his one-time students and colleagues.

While his earliest work concerned the distribution and biogeography of terrestrial gastropods in Poland and elsewhere, his attention soon turned specifically to slugs. While at first dealing with the national fauna, his systematic and phylogenetic studies soon spread more widely. As he discovered, there were few others in the field, and none in Poland. Of more than 100 scientific papers, chapters and whole monographs that he produced during his working life, more than three quarters concern slugs. Most are written in German or English; they appeared in the journals of many countries, reflecting the numerous international partnerships he established with colleagues in Russia, Greece, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Spain, Belgium, Italy, India, China, USA, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Israel and Tunisia.

His papers dealt with the systematics, morphology, ecology, biogeography and phylogeny of slugs. With I. M. Likharev, he proposed a new system of slug classification, documenting cases of parallel evolution that confused earlier phylogenies. He demonstrated the role of spermatophores in reproductive isolation among Milacidae. Monographs of the families Milacidae, Parmacellidae, Anadenidae, and Agriolimacidae were accompanied by others on the slug faunas of



Photo of Wiktor in the Caucasus



Spermatophore of *Milax gagates*. Scale=1mm.
Original: A. Wiktor

Poland, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslavia, Greece, Pakistan, China, the former Soviet Union and its adjacent countries (some with co-authors). In revising taxonomy and distributional data in the families Milacidae, Parmacellidae, Anadenidae, Agriolimacidae and Limacidae he described 60 new species, some new genera and even a new family. After retirement, he returned also to the terrestrial gastropod fauna of his native country, greatly assisting amateurs and others with his guide to Polish land molluscs, *Ślimaki lądowe Polski* (2004), with many of his own meticulous line drawings. Over more than 50 years, he also built up the world's biggest and most species-rich collection of slugs at the Natural History Museum in Wrocław. Much of this collection stems from his own work and travels.

Andrzej Wiktor was never a member of the Conchological Society. Nevertheless, there are many in Great Britain and Ireland who will have benefited from his work, directly and indirectly. The rising generation of slug systematists, armed with all the advantages of DNA sequencing and computational power not known to him or his contemporaries owe him a debt of gratitude in laying down the basic framework on which they can build. Truly, we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Andrzej Wiktor's scientific achievements were not all. He was also a very gifted illustrator. He had a wide range of other interests, including history, church architecture, hiking and travel. His researches and holidays took him to many countries: from many in Europe to Tajikistan, Papua New Guinea and China. As both of us can attest, he was full of enthusiasm to help others, even heretics like one of us (RAD) who persisted in studying snails rather than slugs. Field trips with him were an education, and not only a malacological one. Tales of his visit to Turkey with his colleagues Professor Adolf Riedel, Beata Pokryszko and Ewa Stworzewicz are the stuff of legend among his younger colleagues. He was very generous in allowing friends and colleagues to use his magnificent illustrations in their own work.

Andrzej Wiktor married Jadwiga Kwiecińska, also a biologist, in 1954. Their daughter Zofia (biologist: anthropologist) was born in 1955. Andrzej's wife Jadwiga died in 1997. In 2002 he married Hanna Mizgajska. His second wife (a parasitologist) is yet another biologist in the family. Prof. Wiktor has three grandchildren: Paweł, Anna and Zofia, and four great-grandchildren. After his second marriage he lived part-time in Poznań, his second wife's home town, and part-time in Wrocław.

We are grateful to our Polish colleagues, Beata Pokryszko, Ewa Stworzewicz and Andrzej Lesicki for providing us with information. A fuller appreciation by them will appear in *Folia Malacologica* this year.

Robert A. D. Cameron and Adrian Norris