

In memoriam Ing. René Fouquè

10.iv.1980–22.xi.2016

René was born on April 10th, 1980 in Liberec. His interest in beetles began while attending basic school at the age of 13. His biology teacher was Jaroslav Šťastný, world renowned specialist on Dytiscidae, who developed René's interest in beetles and supported him from the beginning. Soon afterwards, René met other entomologists from Liberec and they started to gather every month in the Pod Branou pub, which happened to be situated just across the square from the house where René lived. One of his most important contacts was Richard Škoda, who collected beetles very actively in former Czechoslovakia, and René joined him for many collecting trips to southern Moravia, southern Slovakia and Greece. Richard became René's 'entomological father', giving him all his tenebrionid specimens and promoting René's interest in this diverse group.

The Pod Branou pub was where I first met René in November 1997. As one of the two youngest entomologists in Liberec, René felt he had to support and look after a new younger member of the community. I was specializing at that time on Elateridae and René gave me his collection of click-beetles, which included numerous rare species and formed the basis for my beetle studies. He also supported me from the beginning and shared his knowledge on organizing collections and collecting. I was soon invited to join unofficial meetings held in Richard Škoda's home where beetle specialists from Liberec met every Monday. René was one of the 'core' coleopterists, attending almost every meeting. Since that time we met regularly, and in spring 1998, we went collecting together with other colleagues to Štúrovo and its surroundings in southern Slovakia.

Although René was entomologist at heart, he chose engineering as a profession and after finishing basic school he started first at the Secondary Technical School of Engineering and Electronics (1994–1998) and then the Secondary School of Civil Engineering (1998–2001). I continued to join him and other colleagues collecting in various places in the Czech and Slovak Republics, and René collected pretty much all the beetles of interest to him. In this period two major things happened in René's life. In 1998 he met love of his life – Helena. René was very fortunate as Helča supported his beetle studies and also had a passion for traveling. A year later René met Standa Bečvář, a world renowned tenebrionid specialist. They become close friends and traveled together to China and Thailand to collect beetles. Meeting Standa was a major step to advance René's beetle studies, and led to his focus on Stenosini. When Standa saw René's growing enthusiasm and interest, he gave him his own Stenosini collection. Collecting in the tropics and subtropics promoted René's interest in and focus on mainly Oriental Stenosini.

After secondary school, René decided to study at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the University of Technology in Brno. He was a perfectionist, applying high standards to what-

ever he did. Moreover, he was very precise, careful and planned everything to the smallest detail, an important set of skills not just for beetle studies. As a result he received the ‘Dean Award’ for his diploma thesis on family houses in 2006. His university years also gave René the freedom to travel with Hel a, to Thailand and China again, and to Cambodia, Malaysia, Nepal, Southern Africa, Morocco and various places in Europe. Most expeditions they went on their own, with only backpacks, but with a precise plan. A few expeditions they organized with Standa, who joined them. René also met other coleopterists working on Tenebrionidae, and became a world renowned specialist on Stenosini.

After graduating René started to work as engineer in a construction company. In 2007 he married Hel a, and a few years later they started to build their new home. These were exhausting but happy years, as their two children Elena and Matthias were born. Although René had less time for beetles he still managed to publish his first paper in 2008, but he had to postpone his travels to the tropics. Instead the family traveled to southern Europe for vacations. René also decided to work purely only on Tenebrionidae, and donated his collection of other beetles to the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec. In the past three years when things became more or less settled, René had more time to work on beetles. In 2013 his second revision of Stenosini appeared and René also visited the Third International Tenebrionoidea Symposium held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, USA. This gave him the opportunity to meet many tenebrionid specialists face to face, and become a truly internationally known and respected specialist on Stenosini. He also resumed traveling and visited Thailand, Myanmar and Nepal, where he discovered numerous new species of Stenosini. He had many future plans and projects. Unfortunately, he was not able to realize them, as a tragic car accident on November 22nd, 2016 brought his life to a premature end.

I was very fortunate to know René for nearly 20 years and enjoyed his friendship. He was a charming and always smiling guy, ready to help others and share his knowledge. Unfortunately, as it happens, the best people often leave us. He will remain in our hearts and we shall never forget René.

Luk a Sekerka

Collection of René Fouqu 

Ren  donated his collection of Palaearctic beetles (except Tenebrionidae) to the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec. It contains mainly specimens from the Czech and Slovak Republics with extensive material from the Liberec Region. His collection of Tenebrionidae, including a special systematic collection of his beloved Stenosini, is deposited in the National Museum in Prague. It contains approximately 34.000 specimens including many paratypes and 7.000 specimens of Stenosini. Most of the material was collected by René and Hel a, or exchanged for material of other insects René collected during his travels. Most of his tropical material has thus been dispersed among other entomologists, and a small part is also deposited at the National Museum.

Figs 1–3. 1 – René Fouqu  with his family in Pl n  pod Je t dem in August 2016; 2 – René taking sifting samples during the Oman expedition; 3 – René and Wolfgang Schawaller collecting in Arizona after the Third International Tenebrionoidea Symposium in August 2013.



List of taxa described by René Fouquè in 2008–2015

- Herbertfranziella almorensis* Fouquè, 2013: 187
Herbertfranziella bhimtaleica Fouquè, 2013: 191
Herbertfranziella brancuccii Fouquè, 2013: 192
Herbertfranziella himalayica Fouquè, 2013: 193
Herbertfranziella loebli Fouquè, 2013: 193
Indostola kaengkrachanensis Fouquè, 2015: 220
Kaszabochillus Fouquè, 2015: 228
Micropseudochillus Fouquè, 2015: 230
Nepalofranziella Fouquè, 2013: 194
Nepalofranziella kaszabi Fouquè, 2013: 194
Nepalofranziella schawalleri Fouquè, 2013: 195
Pseudethas (Pseudethas) longigenus Fouquè, 2008: 361
Pseudethas (Pseudethas) schawalleri Fouquè, 2008: 366
Pseudethas (Pseudethas) thailandicus Fouquè, 2008: 366
Pseudethas (Stenillus) weigeli Fouquè, 2008: 367
Pseudochillus Fouquè, 2015: 226
Pseudochillus (Kaszabochillus) helferi Fouquè, 2015: 229
Pseudochillus (Micropseudochillus) indochinensis Fouquè, 2015: 237
Pseudochillus (Micropseudochillus) palawanus Fouquè, 2015: 234
Pseudochillus (Micropseudochillus) thailandicus Fouquè, 2015: 236
Pseudochillus (Pseudochillus) aalbui Fouquè, 2015: 227

Bibliography of René Fouquè

- FOUQUÈ R. 2008: Revision of the genus *Pseudethas* Fairmaire, with descriptions of four new species from Nepal and Thailand (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini). *Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde A, Neue Serie* 1: 357–369 (30.iv.2008).
 FOUQUÈ R. 2013: Revision of the genus *Herbertfranziella* Kaszab and description of the new genus *Nepalofranziella* of Himalayan Dichillina (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini). *Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde A, Neue Serie* 6: 183–197 (30.iv.2013).
 FOUQUÈ R. 2015: A review of the genera *Indostola*, *Tagenostola*, *Indochillus*, *Pseudethas*, and *Pseudochillus* gen. nov. in South East Asia (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* 55: 217–242 (1.vi.2015).
 FOUQUÈ R.: Revision of the genus *Mitotagenia* Reitter and description of a new genus *Capetagenia* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* (in prep.) [to be finished and published presumably in 2018].