

SUMMARY OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON EPHEMEROPTERA

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I have been asked to summarize the Fourth International Conference on Ephemeroptera, which is a most pleasant task. Academician Vladimír Landa of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences had for many years the idea that an international conference on Ephemeroptera would be beneficial to researchers from many countries. During discussion with Ephemeroptera workers at the XIIIth International Congress of Entomology, he again proposed the conference. The idea was approved by those attending the discussion and hence the First International Conference on Ephemeroptera was held at Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, in 1970. The Second International Conference was hosted by the Laboratory of Water Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, in 1975 and the Third International Conference was hosted by the Freshwater Institute, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, in 1979. It was most appropriate that Dr. Landa and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences host the Fourth International Conference in Czechoslovakia.

The Permanent Committee expresses their sincere appreciation to the Organizing Committee of the Fourth International Conference, Dr. Vladimír Landa and Dr. Tomáš Soldán, for a very successful conference. We also appreciate the hard work of the Secretariat, Mrs. Alena Alešová, Mrs. Eva Babková, Mrs. Marcela Doudová, Mrs. Hana Hejdánková, Mrs. Jitka Piščíková, Mrs. Xandra Štysová, and Dr. Martin Tonner. We are sure that all participants join us in thanking the Organizing Committee and Secretariat for a well organized, beneficial, and most enjoyable conference in Bechyně Castle.

I would first like to report on the meeting of the Permanent Committee. Dr. J. Fontaine has been elected to the committee to replace Dr. E. F. Riek and Dr. V. Landa and Dr. T. Soldán have been elected as new members. Other committee members are: Dr. G. F. Edmunds, Jr., Dr. I. Müller-Liebenau, Dr. H. J.

Schoonbee, and Dr. R. Sowa. I have been reelected as Chairman of the Permanent Committee.

The Permanent Committee would like to congratulate the following recipients of fellowships for the Fourth International Conference: Dr. You Da-Shou, People's Republic of China, Dr. J. Alba Tercedor, Spain, and Mr. Ch. Fischer, BRD. The International Permanent Committee on Ephemeroptera Scholarships will seek additional funds to increase the number of scholarships for the Fifth International Conference. The site for the Fifth International Conference in 1987 will be announced shortly.

The Permanent Committee also elected as Honorary member of the Fourth International Conference Mr. Diego Garcia de Jalon Gonzáles del Tánago of Spain. As the youngest participant of the conference, he was also the quietest.

As I compare all four of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera, I am most happy to see the large number of young scientists who have attended the Fourth International Conference. I sincerely hope the conference was scientifically important to each of them and that they gained much encouragement to continue their important work.

The formal presentations at this Fourth International Conference have again confirmed the fact that Ephemeroptera are fascinating animals. Considerable research progress has been made in the last few years throughout the world. While the subject matter has varied among the four conferences, the same general areas of science have again been presented at this conference. I present them here in no particular order.

The conference opened with two presentations on the history of early mayfly workers. One paper concerned the earliest references to Ephemeroptera, while the other gave an outline of the history of mayfly research in Czechoslovakia. It is always important to understand the work and times of our scientific predecessors. This was especially apparent when we learned more about the work of the late Longinos Navás.

Again, a good number of papers were given on the systematics of Ephemeroptera. Some were concerned with species revisions of certain genera or geographical areas and several were given on the phylogeny, classification, or biogeography of Ephemeroptera. Further, one paper was given on Mesozoic mayfly fossil nymphs. While these papers represented mayflies from various parts of the world, I am especially pleased with the taxonomic work now in progress on European species. It is apparent we do not all agree on various systematic conclusions, but then our discussion will lead to better taxonomies and classifications. Such disagreement and discussion are a part of science.

Several papers were given on the morphology and physiology of Ephemeroptera and their value in understanding systematics. It is obvious that two relatively new techniques are

now commonly used in mayfly research. For the first time, several papers concerned ultrastructure based on SEM analyses and others used electrophoretic investigations. I am sure these techniques will be most helpful in our future mayfly studies.

I was pleased to see for the first time several poster presentations. These posters were very informative and highly visual. I hope poster presentations will become a tradition for future conferences.

Again, over half of the papers given at this conference concerned the ecology and biology of Ephemeroptera. Some papers presented data on the life histories of various species, the ecology and behavior of various related species, and the faunal composition of various rivers or regions throughout the world. Traditionally, most papers on the ecology and biology of mayflies concern species in Europe and North America. I was pleased to hear several papers which reported on species from other areas of the world. Unfortunately, several papers discussed the decline or elimination of mayfly populations resulting from the impact of man on aquatic environments.

Only one paper was given on the parasites and diseases of Ephemeroptera at this conference. I hope interest will continue in this very important field of research.

In concluding a most successful Fourth International Conference on Ephemeroptera, it appears to me that we fulfilled the objectives of such conferences: the informal exchange of information and ideas, international discussion, cooperation, and fellowship. Based on the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera, I would again say that more Ephemeroptera workers in the world now know each other personally than ever before.