

**IN MEMORY OF  
OLE ANTON SÆTHER (1936 – 2013)**

Professor emeritus Ole A. Sæther died January 8 this year. His death did not come as a surprise as he had been fighting cancer for several years. He had his retirement office at the Department of Natural History, University Museum of Bergen and was working with his chironomids until shortly before his death.

Sæther was born in Kristiansand in southern Norway in 1936. He enrolled at the University of Oslo in 1955 and obtained his master degree (cand. real.) in 1963. From 1961 to 1966 he was employed, first as assistant professor, later as university lecturer at

the Department of Limnology, University of Oslo. From 1966 to 1977 he worked as research scientist at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg, Canada. In 1977 he was appointed professor in systematic zoology at the University of Bergen, a position he held until his retirement.

Sæther specialized in aquatic Diptera, especially Chironomidae and Chaoboridae. He penned about 270 academic publications and authored or co-authored 3 subfamilies, 42 genera and nearly 400 species, mostly chironomids. Most of his publications are concerned with descriptive and analytical sys-



Ole Sæther with Len Ferrington at the 18th International Symposium on Chironomidae in Tianjin, China, 2009.  
Photo: Ian Walker.

tematics, but several of his studies are also treating the use of chironomid communities to characterize lakes and to monitor environmental change.

Sæther's work on comparative morphology and terminology of the larval mouthparts and the male and female genitalia in chironomids and other Nematocera is among his most important scientific contributions. His glossary of chironomid morphology terminology is now a standard text for chironomid descriptions. He was also a major contributor to the three volumes with complete diagnoses and keys to the larvae, pupae and male

adults of Chironomidae of the Holarctic region; a second edition of the larvae key was printed in 2013 after his death.

Phylogenetic theory and cladistic analyses have been two of Sæther's main areas of interest through most of his career. His taxonomic experience with a morphologically highly complex taxon combined with the efforts of implementing Hennigian phylogenetic thinking in chironomid systematics, made him believe that character evolution was more complex than originally anticipated in phylogenetic theory. This belief led Sæther to ad-

vocate the idea of “underlying synapomorphies”, a concept introduced by Lars Brundin as “inside parallelism”. An underlying synapomorphy is regarded as the potential capacity of a character to develop into an apomorph character state, and is unlike parallel selection caused by inheritance.

Several of Sæther’s recent publications concern the zoogeographical patterns found in chironomids. In addition to the well-known transantarctic Gondwanan pattern there are, among others, a northern Gondwanan or Inabrezian connection and an Afrotropical - South Asian connection often extending to East Asia and / or Australia. Through numerous studies, Sæther has showed the importance of using phylogenetic hypotheses as backbones in zoogeographical analyses.

Sæther participated on several projects and expeditions to Asia, Africa and South- and Central America. Together with master and PhD students from Norway, Ghana, China and Brazil he revised several genera of Orthoclaadiinae and Chironominae and described many new species. Throughout his career, Ole Sæther was always willing to help those of us who have asked for assistance and guidance in species identifications and phylogenetic analyses. He was an active participant in the chironomidologist community, and participated in all international chironomid symposia since the 4th in Ottawa in 1970.

A list of Sæther’s publications from 1962 to 2006 was given by Ekrem & Andersen (2007). Publications from 2007 to 2013 are listed below.

## Reference

Ekrem, T. & Andersen, T. 2007. Professor Ole Anton Sæther 70 years: four decades of chironomid research. In: Andersen, T. (Ed.) *Contributions to the Systematics and Ecology of Aquatic Diptera – A Tribute to Ole A. Sæther*. The Cadis Press, Columbus, Ohio. Pp. 1-15.

### Ole A. Sæther : List of publications 2007-2013

#### 2007

Przhiboro, A. & Sæther, O.A. 2007. *Limnophyes* (Diptera: Chironomidae) from northwestern Russia. – *Aquatic Insects* 29: 49-58.

#### 2008

Sæther, O.A. & Oyewo, E.A. 2008. Keys, phylogenies and biogeography of *Polypedilum* subgenus *Uresipedilum* Oyewo et Sæther (Diptera, Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 1806: 1-34.

Oyewo, E.A. & Sæther, O.A. 2008. Revision of *Polypedilum* (*Pentapedilum*) Kieffer and *Ainuyusurika* Sasa et Shirasaki (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 1953: 1-145.

Przhiboro, A.A. & Sæther, O.A. 2008. *Orthoclaadius parataticus* Chernovskii, 1949 a synonym of *Heterotrissocladius subpilosus* (Kieffer, 1911). – *Zootaxa* 1763: 38-40.

Yan, C., Sæther, O.A., Jin, Z. & Wang, X. 2008. Three new species of the *Harnischia* complex from the Sino-Indian Region, with a review of *Demicryptochironomus* Lenz (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 1968: 1-22.

#### 2009

Sæther, O.A. 2009. Family Chironomidae. In: Gerlach, J. (Ed.). *The Diptera of the Seychelles Islands*. – Pensoft Series Faunistica 86, Bulgaria. Pp. 69-84.

Sæther, O.A. 2009. *Telmatogeton murrayi* sp. n. from Iceland and *T. japonicus* Tokunaga from Madeira (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Aquatic Insects* 31: 31-44.

Sæther, O.A. 2009. *Cryptochironomus* Kieffer from Lake Winnipeg, Canada, with a review of Nearctic species (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 2208: 1-24.

Fu, Y., Sæther, O.A. & Wang, X. 2009. *Corynoneura* Winnertz from East Asia, with a systematic review of the genus (Diptera: Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae). – *Zootaxa* 2287: 1-44.

#### 2010

Sæther, O.A. 2010. *Cryptotendipes* Lenz from Manitoba, Canada, with keys to known immatures of the genus (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 2412: 1-20.

Sæther, O.A. 2010. *Tavastia pilipecta* sp. n. from Manitoba, Canada (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Aquatic Insects* 32: 167-190.

Sæther, O.A. 2010. *Procladius* Skuse from Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, with keys to some females and immature stages of the genus (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 2726: 34-58.

Sæther, O.A. & Andersen, T. 2010. *Ferringtonia*, a new genus of Orthoclaadiinae from Patagonia and South Chile (Diptera: Chironomidae). In: Ferrington, L.C. Jr. (Ed.). *Proceedings of the XV International Symposium on Chironomidae, St. Paul, Minnesota, 12-14 August 2003*. –

- University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. Pp. 311-333.
- Sæther, O.A., Andersen, T., Pinho, L.C. & Mendes, H.F. 2010. The problems with *Polypedilum* Kieffer (Diptera: Chironomidae), with the description of *Probolum* subgen. n. – *Zootaxa* 2497: 1-36.
- Andersen, T., Sæther, O.A. & Mendes, H.F. 2010. Neotropical *Allocladius* Kieffer, 1913 and *Pseudosmittia* Edwards, 1932 (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 2472: 1-77.
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- 2011**
- Sæther, O.A. 2011. *Glyptotendipes* Kieffer and *Demeijerea* Kruseman from Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, with the description of four new species (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 2760: 39-52.
- Sæther, O.A. 2011. Notes on some tanypods from Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (Diptera: Chironomidae). – *Zootaxa* 3069: 26-42.
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- 2012**
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- 2013 (Posthumously)**
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