



Throughout his long research career Prof. W. Wülker developed fruitful collaborations with many specialists in countries throughout the world (Australia - Prof. J. Martin; USA- Prof. M. Butler, Prof. J. Sublette and his wife M. Sublette; Russia- Prof. I. I. Kiknadze and her team (“the Russian ladies” as he liked to refer to them); Hungary – Prof. G. Devai; Bulgaria- Prof. P. Michailova; Switzerland – Profs. H. M. Ryser and A. Scholl). Publications with these and many other international colleagues produced important contributions to our understanding of the genetics of natural chironomid populations and evolution within the important genus *Chironomus*, long before the current age of molecular sequencing techniques. Throughout most of the 20th Century, cytogenetic analysis of polytene chromosomes was not only a valuable taxonomic tool for the important genus *Chironomus*, it also provided great insight into broader topics like genetic differentiation of isolated populations and the role of chromosomal rearrangements in population adaptation, divergence, and speciation. Prof. W. Wülker’s work contributed directly to these themes, and greatly facilitated advances made by many others.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wülker has been one of the most active participants in the International Chironomid Symposia. Present at the First Symposium held in Plön, Germany in 1964, Prof. Wülker hosted the 13th Symposium at Freiburg in September 1997. Though unable to attend the 2003 Symposium in person, he presented - by video recording - the Thienemann honorary lecture at the 15th International Chironomid Symposium in Minneapolis, USA. His address on “The Role of Chromosomes in Chironomid Systematics, Ecology and Phylogeny” was an insightful overview of the many ways in which cytogenetic studies have enhanced our knowledge of chironomid taxonomy, genetics, ecology, evolution, and biogeography.

We express our deepest grief on the death of our dear colleague and collaborator. We will miss his friendship, competence and advice.

#### **References**

Martin, J., Hoffrichter, O. 2010. Wolfgang Friedrich Wülker, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. - *Chironomus Newsletter on Chironomidae Research* 23: 4-9.

Pepi Michailova, Jon Martin and Malcolm Butler