



SERGIUSZ TOLL (1893-1961)

On the 19th of September, 1961, Professor Dr. SERGIUSZ TOLL died unexpectedly and prematurely at an age of 68. He was the great Polish authority on the systematics and taxonomy of the Microlepidoptera, in particular of the family Eupistidæ (or Coleophoridæ), of which he was a well-known specialist. He died in the hospital of his town, Katowice, of heart failure after a minor operation. His decease is a serious loss to lepidopterology.

SERGIUSZ TOLL was born on the 22nd of November, 1893, in Warsaw. He attended and finished the high school of his native town and then went to the University of Rostov on the Don, in Southeast European Russia. He studied biology and received his doctor of science degree there.

From his childhood he had been greatly attracted by natural history. As a boy he had a small zoo of his own, rearing young birds, goldfish, squirrels, etc. Very early and with remarkable success he started collecting Lepidoptera, already at the high school age possessing a collection of over 10,000 specimens. As a university student he continued his study in earnest. A collection of Lepidoptera from the environment of Rostov was donated by him to the municipal museum of that town, numbering over 40,000 specimens.

In 1924 Dr. TOLL returned to his native country and settled in the town of Bydgoszcz, where he was married and where his only child, a daughter — now a doctor of medicine, a pediatrician, — was born. Again TOLL continued the collecting and study of the Lepidoptera. From that time date his first scientific publications. His bibliography (which is published in the *Zeitschrift der Wiener ent. Verein*) contains 87 titles. In total he described about 270 new species and forms of Lepidoptera.

He was also interested in the study of birds and left a collection of birds' eggs, comprising over 12,000 pieces, dating from his time in Bydgoszcz.

In 1934 the family moved to Katowice in Upper Silesia. With great energy TOLL continued his lepidopterological studies and dedicated to them all his time. His wife helped him with the rearing of material.

Dr. TOLL was a talented and zealous taxonomist with a keen eye for subtle specific differences. This may be the reason why he selected as his specialty the study of a difficult group, the family Eupistidæ or Coleophoridae, comprising numerous species all over the world. He was an excellent draftsman. His richly and beautifully illustrated papers give evidence of great accuracy and taxonomic insight. His figures of the male genitalia of the species are somewhat schematized, but he put in them all the important characters. His 1952 monographic treatise of the Polish Eupistidæ is a standard work of great value.

Two other publications may be mentioned as examples of TOLL's very keen ability of discrimination: "Drei weitere neue Arten der Familie Tortricidæ aus Polen" (*Ann. Zool. Warszawa*, vol.17; 1958), in which *Bactra gozmanyana* Toll is separated, and "Studies on species of the Lepidoptera of the group *Cacaecia podana* Scop. and *Pyrausta sanguinalis* L.", where the difficult *podana* group is excellently analyzed.

During the last years his interest was more and more attracted by the fauna of some of the fascinating peripheral lands of the Palearctic region: Siberia, Persia, North Africa. Alas, his untimely death put a stop to his fertile activity.

TOLL leaves an excellent collection of Lepidoptera, certainly the best one of the Polish fauna and of many other regions, comprising over

100,000 specimens. Probably the Polish Academy of Sciences will take over and deposit the collection in the Warsaw Museum. Also he left a completed manuscript of a monograph of the Eupistidæ, on which he had worked for 25 years. Mrs. TOLL informs me that the Academy is also going to publish this great work, which is a good news. The publication will be eagerly anticipated by everybody interested in the group.

The names of TOLL's teachers did not reach us. But he had many pupils. Among them are several whose names are well-known to microlepidopterists: T. RIDL, I. RAZOWSKI, S. BLESZYNSKI, and others so that it appears that he created a native school of microlepidopterology in Poland.

Of his public scientific activities the following list of posts bears witness. TOLL was President of the Bytom Division of the Polish Gornoslaski Entomological Society, former board member of the Polish Academy of Sciences at Krakow, former board member of the Gornoslaski Museum at Bytom, member of the board of the Zoological Institute PAN in Warsaw and Krakow, and member of the international editorial commission of the publishing of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife and daughter.

A. DIAKONOFF

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, NETHERLANDS



The cover figure for Volume 17 is by JEANNE E. REMINGTON. It emphasizes stylized scales and the maxillary proboscis and labial palpi typical of adult Lepidoptera.