

**In Memoriam Professor Klara BARTKOWSKA  
(1939-2010)**

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Klara BARTKOWSKA was born on 16 February 1939 in Poznań. In 1952, after completing primary school, she went to Grammar School No. 2 in Poznań, and passed her final exams in 1956. In the same year she became a student of the Faculty of Geology at Wrocław University. After three years of studies she moved to the Faculty of Biology of the same University, and next in 1960 she came to the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań. In May 1965, she received a master's degree in zoology for her thesis entitled "Larval morphology of the flea *Typhloceras poppei* WAGN. (Aphaniptera, Hystrichopsyllidae)". Professor W. SKURATOWICZ, her thesis supervisor, wrote "*Her master's thesis – one of the best theses written at the Department of Systematic Zoology – is a completely original and highly valuable work about the morphology of developmental stages of Siphonaptera*".

On 1 September 1965, Klara BARTKOWSKA, MSc, became a doctoral student at the AMU Department of Systematic Zoology. From that moment on, her life was inextricably linked with that Department, the Faculty of Biology, and the University.

In 1973, she received a PhD in zoology for her thesis entitled "Siphonaptera of the Polish Tatra Mountains". All its reviewers concluded that it was an original and remarkable scientific achievement, providing new data about the zonal distribution of species and subspecies of Siphonaptera in the Tatras. The work also includes a description of a new subspecies of the genus *Rhadinopsylla* and notes about cases of gynandromorphism, as well as about new hosts of 11 species and subspecies of Siphonaptera. The entire PhD thesis was published in the same year in the journal *Fragmenta Faunistica*.

She applied for her postdoctoral qualification, called “habilitation”, in February 1985. This time her thesis was entitled “Hystrichopsyllinae (Siphonaptera, Hystrichopsyllidae) of Poland”.



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The habilitation colloquium took place on 15 October 1985, when she was awarded the postdoctoral degree (dr hab.). The thesis received very positive reviews from all three reviewers. It included completely new information about the co-occurrence of two polyxenous species (i.e. adapted to life on many different hosts) of the genus *Hystrichopsyllus* within one area. Although they are found on hosts of the same species, they avoid competition by spontaneous choice of different host individuals, i.e. different ecological niches. This phenomenon demonstrates the possibility of secondary host specialization in Siphonaptera. The habilitation thesis was awarded a prize by the Minister of Science and Higher Education in 1987.

Klara BARTKOWSKA held the post of “docent” (assistant professor) from 1987 to 1991, and that of associate professor from 1991 until her retirement in 2005.

Her scientific output includes 46 publications (four of them monographic), as well as many oral presentations and short notes during various meetings, symposia, and conferences of scientific societies. She remained scientifically active in spite of her illness, and in

cooperation with Dr A. NOWOSAD she prepared a chapter about Siphonaptera for Volume 2 of the *Handbook of Zoology* edited by Prof. Czesław BŁASZAK (to appear soon).

Professor Bartkowska's scientific achievements were appreciated and honoured in the form of several awards of the AMU Vice-Chancellor, and an award of the Faculty of Biological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

She was an active member of several scientific societies: the Polish Zoological Society (where for many years she was a member of the council of the Poznań branch), the Polish Nature Conservation Society "Salamander", the Biological Committee of the Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences, and the Polish Entomological Society. In 1995-1998 she was a member of the council of the Polish Entomological Society, and from 1998 she served two terms as its Vice-President. In appreciation of her many years of service to the Society, she was awarded its Golden Badge (its highest distinction) and a medal issued to commemorate the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

She was also an active member of the editorial boards of scientific journals: *Badania Fizjograficzne nad Polską Zachodnią*, Zoology series (from 1994), and *Polish Entomological Monographs* (published by the Polish Entomological Society, from 2000).

While employed at the AMU Department of Systematic Zoology, she initially conducted laboratory classes in zoology and ecology, various specialized laboratory classes, and field trips. Later she also gave lectures in zoology and parasitology, as well as conducting seminars and leading field trips in ecology. She developed conceptually the classes in parasitology, by preparing a full set of microscope slides and original keys for use by students.

As an academic, Klara BARTKOWSKA was demanding, but always well-liked by both students and colleagues. During her long academic career, she supervised five PhD theses in mammalogy, and reviewed five PhD theses and one habilitation thesis. She supervised 70 master's theses in a wide range of subjects, concerned with ectoparasites of small mammals, mammalogy, and mammal ecology. She also supervised 20 bachelor's theses, concerned mostly with insects, fish, amphibians, and mammals, and oversaw seven students who had qualified for individual courses of study.

From 1991 to 2005 she was the head of the Department of Systematic Zoology. She demanded from her subordinates that they devote much of their time to teaching and helping students. She reminded us repeatedly that the University would not exist without students, and that scientific activity was possible only if students were satisfied with the standard of their classes and lectures. Students' opinions, expressed in the outside world, are always reflected in the number of future candidates, and thus lead to the continuous development of the Faculty of Biology.

Throughout her career she actively participated in coordinating the work of the Faculty and University, as a member of various committees.

Her funeral took place on Friday, 27 August 2010, at the Górczyn Cemetery of the Parish of the Sorrowful Mother in Poznań.

We pay our last tributes to this scientist who was completely devoted to the AMU Faculty of Biology, including both its staff and its students. She always had the courage to express her views and remained faithful to them until the very end. She never refused to help or advise us, both in professional and private affairs. This image of Professor Klara BARTKOWSKA will remain in our memory.

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