

## ZBIGNIEW KABATA HONORED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER OF CANADA

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Benz G.W., Goater T.M., Piasecki W. 2007. Zbigniew Kabata honored with membership in the Order of Canada. *Acta Ichthyol. Piscat.* 37 (2): 137–138.

It is rare for an ichthyoparasitologist to receive a country's highest honor, and thus when such a scientist is honored more than once and by different countries the event becomes truly precious.

On 29 July 2007, at the recommendation of the Advisory Council of the Order of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor of Canada, announced the eminent Parasitologist and long-time *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* Editorial Board member Zbigniew "Bob" Kabata, PhD, DSc (retired, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada) as one of 47 new Members of the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is Canada's highest civilian honor. It was instituted in 1967 by Queen Elizabeth II to recognize exemplary achievements and service to Canada and replaced use of the Order of the British Empire by the Canadian government. Induction into the Order at the level of Member is bestowed upon individuals who have made exceptional local or regional level-, group-, field-, or activity contributions to Canada or Canadians. Dr Kabata was appointed to the Order for his lifetime scientific contributions to the field of ichthyoparasitology. We have been unofficially notified that the investiture ceremony will take place in Ottawa in May 2008.

Zbigniew Kabata was born in Jeremicze, Poland on 17 March 1924. His heroic involvement in WWII, serving in the Armia Krajowa on Polish soil and later in Italy, in the Polish 2nd Army Corps, earned him the Cross of Valour, the War Order of Virtuti Militari (Class V), the Bar to the Cross of Valour, the Polish Army 1939–1945 War Medal (two bars), the Home (Underground) Army Cross, the Partisan's Cross, the Grand Commander of the Order of Polonia Restituta (awarded to Kabata for both his distinguished war service and later scientific achievements), and the Gold Medal for Contribution to the Defensiveness of the Country. Most notable is the fact that the War Order of Virtuti Militari is the highest military decoration awarded by Poland

and the Grand Commander of the Order of Polonia Restituta is Poland's supreme honor.

Demobilization resulted in Kabata's move to Great Britain and work as a deep-sea fisherman with the Scottish trawler fleet. A growing interest in zoology led to his earning a BSc, PhD, and DSc from the University of Aberdeen and employment with Scotland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and it was during this period that his pioneering studies of the use of parasites as biological tags took place. In 1967, Dr Leo Margolis (Pacific Biological Station) persuaded Dr Kabata to join the Canadian fisheries staff at Nanaimo, British Columbia. Dr Kabata served in a variety of high capacities at the station until his retirement in 1989 and has since continued his studies of the parasitic copepods of fishes at the station ever since. He has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers and several books and is widely regarded as the world's leading authority on parasitic copepods. Notably, he is finalizing prepublication efforts on a highly anticipated volume on the biology of parasitic copepods.

The aforementioned distinguished scientific career has earned Dr Kabata the Wardle Medal from the Canadian Society of Zoologists, the K. Janicki Medal from the Polish Parasitological Society, the K. Demel Medal from the Sea Fisheries Institute (Gdynia), an Eminent Parasitologist Award from the American Society of Parasitologists, honorary membership in the British Society for Parasitology, the Polish Parasitological Society, the Canadian Society of Zoologists, and the Parasitological Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences, an Honorary DSc (*Doctor honoris causa*) from the Agricultural University of Szczecin, an Honorary DLitt from Malaspina University-College (Nanaimo), and as announced here, membership in the Order of Canada. In addition, some 20 taxa have been named in honor of Dr Kabata, (Jara and Pojmańska 2004a, b) a list which no doubt will be added to in the years ahead.

It is impossible to give a comprehensive report on the truly remarkable life of Dr Zbigniew Kabata in an editorial

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as short as this. Hence we direct the attention of readers wishing to learn more to the following works (Anonymous 1993, 2007, Langley 2001, Benz and Piasecki 2004, Evelyn 2004, Gruszczyński 2004, Jara and Pojmańska 2004a, b, Szumyk 2007, Zaniewska 2004). Most importantly, on behalf of the Editorial Board of *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* we tip our hats, clink our glasses, and clap our “maxillipeds” in honor of you, Dr Kabata... congratulations!

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Received: 11 August 2007

Published electronically: 28 December 2007