

FOREWORD

Dr. Kurt Krammer, friend and colleague to many diatomologists worldwide, distinguished scientist and, with Professor Horst Lange-Bertalot, co-author of a fundamental work on identification of freshwater diatoms, celebrates his 85th birthday this year. Here we present papers contributed to honor him on this occasion.

Dr. Krammer's devotion to diatoms has borne fruit in a great number of basic monographs on diatoms. The most famous publication, issued in five volumes within the series *Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa*, has had a huge impact on this field of research through the last few decades. Kurt Krammer was its senior author. Though it was intended as a guide for diatom identification in Central European inland and coastal marine waters, it was quickly adopted and became part of the canon of world literature on diatoms. And how much poorer the field of diatom research would be if not for his monographic series on diatom genera such as *Pinnularia* and on selected groups of taxa including cymbelloid diatoms. His output includes many more papers and books, but these mentioned publications are probably the high points. They will remain a model of diatom research and writing, grounded in Dr. Krammer's deep knowledge of classical taxonomy and giving essential information on the morphological variability, distribution and autecology of the studied diatoms. His focus has been on European diatoms but his contribution goes much further: he has described hundreds of diatom taxa, and what makes this part of his work so very useful is that the taxa he has analyzed are important bioindicators. In addition, his skill and enthusiasm in helping solve taxonomical problems are well known to beginners and others working in the field of diatomology. In this way he has contributed to

research on diatom species in a way that goes far beyond the subject matter of his publications.

For Dr. Kurt Krammer, biology is an obsession that began in his school days. Through the turmoil of the first years of World War Two he managed to complete his academic education in biology, as did Gisela, his university colleague and later wife. Kurt Krammer earned his Ph.D. in biology, but then had to take over the family business from his father, so he never became a university employee. His scientific activity went on under the umbrella of the Institute for Surface Analysis, a nonprofit organization.

Some of us have met Dr. Kurt Krammer a number of times during German-speaking diatomologists' meetings. Our impressions of him are these: always smiling, friendly, somewhat ironic, and surprisingly somewhat shy, but obviously happy in his private life and his research. Our colleague Ditmar Metzeltin has captured these qualities in his photo on the first page of this issue.

Kurt Krammer's life shows us that an academic career is not the only way for a scientist to succeed. A very well organized man with his own impressive arsenal of microscopy equipment (including SEM), and not burdened with institutional ballast, he enjoys the freedom of free-lance research. We admire his output even more when we remember that he started his scientific work quite late.

These papers published for our fellow diatomologists are a tribute to Dr. Kurt Krammer, his life and research. The project arose spontaneously among a group of his colleagues and friends. In this editorial effort we appreciate very much the help and cooperation of Professor Horst Lange-Bertalot and Dr. Ditmar Metzeltin, Kurt Krammer's true fellow warriors

in science. All the accepted papers passed through peer review, and we would like to express our gratitude to the referees. The contributions accepted for this number include many aspects of diatom research covered by Dr. Krammer. Opening the volume is a paper which relates morphological study of diatoms to nanotechnology applications. It is a fitting start,

as in his own work Dr. Kurt Krammer has never hesitated to embrace new technologies.

Many happy returns! Ad multos annos! Hoch soll er leben! Sto lat!

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