Ewa Barycka (1979–2008)

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Ewa Barycka passed away on 1 February 2008. She died of cerebral hemorrhage during chemotherapy against acute leukemia, a cancer of the blood or bone marrow. She was 28 years old. The untimely death of one so young and eager for life has shocked all who knew her.

Ewa Barycka was born on 21 March 1979 in Opole, Silesia, Poland. There she grew up with her parents and her older sister and younger brother. Since childhood, Ewa’s dream has been to become a paleontologist. Her passion and intense enthusiasm. She once told me that her greatest dream as a child had been to someday become a paleontologist. Her dream has been realized. She became a paleontologist. It is sad that this has been given to her for only so short a period of time.

In October 2003, Ewa began her doctoral studies at the International Doctoral School of Biological Sciences at the Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. During these studies, she extended her interests to the feliform part of the mammalian clade Carnivora and eventually focused on Pleistocene felids and hyaenids. Cave Lion and Cave Hyaena played major roles in her Ph.D. thesis.

From an academic perspective, 2007 was Ewa’s most successful year. Her review article on the evolution and systematics of the feliform Carnivora appeared in Mammalian Biology and also her two original research papers were issued. Furthermore, Ewa passed both preliminary exams for her doctoral degree in June and September and was preparing for the final exam. She completed the final version of her Ph.D. thesis early in September and still managed to translate the dissertation, in its entirety, into English and submitted the translated manuscript in mid-October. A few days later, Ewa learned that she had leukemia again. Still in October, she was admitted in a clinic of the Medical University of Wrocław. She died there three months later.

Ewa loved paleontology and pursued her research with great passion and intense enthusiasm. She once told me that her greatest dream as a child had been to someday become a paleontologist. Her dream has been realized. She became a paleontologist. It is sad that this has been given to her for only so short a period of time.

Ewa Barycka’s bibliography


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