Announcements

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Frederick Christian Thompson (1944–2021) –
Dipterist and Commissioner

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of retired
Commissioner Frederick Christian Thompson on
4 February 2021, a specialist on Diptera. Chris
was employed by the United States Department of
Agriculture, Systematic Entomology Laboratory in
Washington, D.C., U.S.A. from 1974 to his retirement
in 2008. During those years he was an early advocate
for computerization of collections, literature and
names, and his major legacy to that end is the current
Systema Dipterorum online database of more than 200,000 fly names he almost single-
handedly built and maintained. Chris had a long history of interest in nomenclature,
most likely inspired by having Commissioner Curtis W. Sabrosky, a close colleague, in
a neighbouring office for many years. After Curt left the ICZN, Chris came on board
and served as Commissioner from 1985 to 1995 but continued until 1998 in helping edit
the Fourth Edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Chris was
involved in various ways in the preparatory discussions leading to the establishment of
the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) in 1996 and Species 2000, and he
was part of the group behind the crafting of ZooBank. Over the years Chris amassed a
large personal library dealing with Diptera and donated several of the rarer books to the
Smithsonian Library to have them digitized for BHL.

Hirokuni Noda (1960–2020) – Tardigrade specialist and Code translator

We regret to announce the passing of Mr Hirokuni Noda, who was one of the two main
translators (listed as “Editors for the Japanese Text”) of the Japanese-language edition of
the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Fourth Edition), authorized by the
Commission under Article 87. The Japanese edition was issued in 2000 by the Union of
the Japanese Societies for Systematic Biology. Mr Noda was a specialist of tardigrades
but was also interested in various marine invertebrates. He was an assistant professor of
Tokyo Women’s Medical University until his death. He was also active in development
of the Japanese Society of Systematic Zoology. An obituary by Dr Teruaki Nishikawa,
a co-translator of the Japanese-language edition of the Code and a former International
Trust for Zoological Nomenclature (ITZN) Trustee, has been published in the journal
Taxa and is available at: https://doi.org/10.19004/taxa.49.0_1.