

IN MEMORIAM

DARIUSZ ZIELIŃSKI
(1968–1996)

Cruel death has taken away our dear, young colleague and friend, Dariusz Zieliński. Darek was only 28 years old! It is with great sadness that I am obliged to commemorate my most talented and respected pupil who passed away on 4 August 1996.

Dariusz Zieliński, M.Sc., was born on 20 May 1968 in Pabianice. Educated in Aleksandrów Łódzki and Łódź, he graduated in 1987 from *J. Kasprowicz* Gymnasium in Łódź. In this year he took part in the finals of the Biological School's olympiad "Cell — Organism — Population". This resulted in a direct entrance, without sitting exams, to the University of Łódź in 1987 to begin his biological studies. In June 1992 he completed, under my supervision, his university education in environmental biology, receiving his M.Sc. degree after an excellent presentation of his thesis: "Occurrence of *Gammarus* species in

Bieszczady Mts. and a life cycle of *Gammarus balcanicus* Schäferna". With this thesis he gained second prize in the nation-wide "Professor Marian Gieysztor" competition for master's theses in the field of hydrobiology. Part of this thesis was soon published in the international journal *Crustaceana* and the remainder was recently submitted for publication in the same journal.

In autumn 1992 Darek Zieliński was accepted to undertake doctoral studies at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, University of Łódź. His polar adventure commenced in December 1993.

He was a member of the over-wintering staff of the XVIIIth Polish Antarctic Expedition to the *H. Arctowski* Station. During this 14 month Antarctic stay he made a most comprehensive collection of littoral and sublittoral invertebrates within the framework of two projects: "A quantitative study of the littoral and uppermost sublittoral benthos of Admiralty Bay" and "The biology and ecology of necrophagous amphipod crustaceans in the Antarctic sublittoral zone". The latter topic, that was foreseen as his doctoral thesis, was near completion when he returned from the Antarctic. Despite contracting a fatal disease he worked tenaciously and in April 1996 his final doctoral procedure commenced within the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, University of Łódź, with hopes of completion in a year or so.

Darek was deeply engaged in mountain tourism, possessing an unequalled knowledge of geography, biology and ethnology of Polish mountains. For years he worked as a mountain guide for tourist groups. He dedicated his master's thesis: "to the mountains where everything is sacred".

He was an extremely pleasant character, always full of optimism. Unusually well read in the fields of biology and ecology, an excellent command of the English language, and profoundly interested in biological studies, he was obviously destined for a most promising scientific career. His untimely death will for ever be a "bleeding wound" on the entire team within the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Hydrobiology, University of Łódź. On behalf of this team I write these words of sorrow and memory: "Darek, we miss you so deeply!"

Krzysztof JAŹDŹEWSKI
Łódź