

OBITUARY



HANAN (HANS) BYTINSKI-SALZ
1903-1986

H. Bytinski-Salz, Professor Emeritus of the Tel-Aviv University, passed away on October 25, 1986. He was born on June 24th 1903 in Karlsruhe, Germany. He studied Zoology at the universities of Berlin and Freiburg and received his Ph.D. degree in 1929. Already as a student he joined the Zionist youth movement Blau-Weiss in Berlin, but immigrated to Israel (then Palestine) only in 1939. Till then he worked in several universities and other research institutions in Europe and U.S.A. His first years in Israel were economically very hard for him and his family. The small Hebrew University in Jerusalem at that time, the only university in the country, could not offer him a suitable position. He had temporary positions at the Hebrew University, the Agricultural Experimental Station, Rehovot and at the Kibbutz Teachers Seminary in Tel-Aviv.

After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, his economical position improved. He became the chief entomologist at the Department of Plant Protection in Jaffa and head of the quarantine service of the country. In 1954, he began teaching Entomology at the newly founded Tel-Aviv University, where he continued teaching, advising graduate students and doing research until his retirement in 1974.

Bytinski, as we called him, was the first member of the Department of Zoology to receive the rank of Full Professor and was the most versatile teacher. He taught courses in Entomology, Embriology, Histology, Evolution and Paleontology. He was considered by the faculty members, students and all zoologists of the country as a "Walking Encyclopedia", from whom everyone, anytime could receive information and advice. His diverse and wide outlook emerged from the beginning of his research career. In 1929 he began publishing comprehensive papers on the experimental embryology of the amphibians and continued to work in this field for nearly 50 years. In this year he also began publishing papers on experimental development and cytology of Lepidoptera.

Bytinski was one of the first scientists writing about the influence of hormones on the development of insect organs. In 1933 he published a paper about experiments with lepidopteran hybrids (Untersuchungen an Lepidopteren-hybriden II. Entwicklungs-physiologische Experimente über die Wirkung disharmonischer Chromosomenkombinationen. *Archiv für Entwicklungsmechanik der Organismen* 129:356-387). In his experiments he transferred ovaries from pupae of *Celerio euphorbiae* to pupae of *Celerio galii*. He found that the development of the implant was synchronised with the development of the host. If the host is diapausing, the implanted ovaries will also interrupt their development. The ovaries were implanted in the body cavity of the host without direct connection with the host's organs. Bytinski concluded that an impulse from the nervous system of the host may induce in a special gland, the production of a hormone. This hormone when circulating with the haemolymph through the body of the host, may influence the development of the implant.

From 1934, Bytinski began publishing faunistic papers. He wrote on the Lepidoptera of Sardinia, Asia Minor and Iran. After his arrival in Israel, his faunistic studies expanded to different orders and families. The most important are about the Cerambycidae, Sphecidae, Vespoidea and Halictidae of Israel. Other fields of his studies were Zoogeography and Plant Protection. A full list of his publications until 1969 was published in Volume IV (2) (1969) of ISRAEL JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGY.

Bytinski was the best insect collector in Israel. Every entomologist was eager to join him on his collecting trips. I remember a trip with him to Ein-Gedi at the Dead Sea in 1957. We had no car, so we travelled by a public bus to Sedom. From there we hitch-hiked on a lorry carrying ice blocks to Ein-Gedi. We sat on the ice and arrived nearly frozen, but Bytinski's enthusiasm for collecting infected me and we had a wonderful trip.

The insect collection of Bytinski is the best private collection in the country. At the age of 80 he donated his collection together with his entomological library to the Zoological Department of Tel-Aviv University. The collection is today an important part of the National Collection of Insects of Israel. In addition to insects Bytinski assembled an important fossil collection.

Besides doing research work, teaching and collecting, Bytinski was very active in the scientific community of Israel. He was one of the founders of the Zoological Society of Israel and of the Entomological Society of Israel, and was for many years a member of their executive committee. He was one of the founders of the *Israel Journal of Zoology* and the *Israel Journal of Entomology*, and for many years was a member of their editorial boards. He not only edited the *Israel Journal of*

Entomology, but supported it financially. This support will continue even after his death, thanks to a generous donation made by him in 1984.

For many years Bytinski was a very active member of the Fauna Palaestina Committee of the Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Hanan Bytinski-Salz is a great loss to the scientific community in Israel and the world, and he will be remembered as one of the founders of Zoology and Entomology in Israel.

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A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS BY H. BYTINSKI-SALZ AFTER 1969
for previous publications, see
ISRAEL JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGY Vol. IV (2):210-215

- Bytinski-Salz, H. and J. Gusenleitner. 1971. The Vespoidea of Israel (Hymenoptera). *Israel Journal of Entomology* 6:239-298.
- Bytinski-Salz, H. 1972. On the "Genius Loci". *Abstracts of the XIV International Congress of Entomology Canberra*, p. 97.
- de Beaumont, J. and H. Bytinski-Salz. 1973. The Sphecidae (Hymen.) of Eretz Israel. III Subfamilies: Astatinae, Larrinae, Trypoxyloninae, Pemphredoninae, Crabroninae, Oxybelinae. *Israel Journal of Entomology* 8:1-26.
- Bytinski-Salz, H. and A.W. Ebmer. 1974. The Halictidae of Israel (Hymenoptera, Apoidea). II. Genus *Lasioglossum*. *Israel Journal of Entomology* 9:175-217.
- Bytinski-Salz, H. 1976. Structural alternations in the epidermis and especially the coverplate in anuran tadpoles after osmotic changes. *Sixth European Congress on Electron Microscopy, Jerusalem*: 574-576.
- Bytinski-Salz, H. 1976. Production of melanophore-free trails in tadpoles of *Pelobates* (Amphibia: Anura). *Israel Journal of Zoology* 25(4):214.