

DR. MARTA MARGREITER - KOWNACKA (1939 – 2012)



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Marta Margreiter–Kownacka was born on 14 September 1939 in Kraków into the family of the renowned Polish archaeologist, Professor Stanislaus Buratyński. After graduating from high school in 1956 Marta was accepted into the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow to study biology. In October 1961 Marta was employed by the Department of Water Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences and embarked on a decade of important research. She joined the team that was conducting a comprehensive study of high-mountain streams, lakes and small reservoirs, mainly of the Tatra mountains, and comparing the results with other mountain

ranges in Europe. In 1968, Marta defended her thesis “Bottom animals of the Sucha Woda stream (High Tatars) on an annual basis,” and was awarded her PhD. The results of this period of research she published together with her first husband, Andrew Kownacki. In the same time, together we started research on alpine Chironomidae, describing several new species for science of the genus *Diamesa*.

In 1972 Marta gained a scholarship at the University of Innsbruck. An injury while skiing resulted in her long-term treatment in Austria, which ultimately became her home. From 1973 until 1986 she was a contract researcher at the University of Innsbruck, and in 1986, at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. When the contracts expired, Marta established her own Institut für Ökometrie (Institute for Ecometrics) in Vienna, where she carried out research on the impact of hydrodevelopment on alpine streams for both government and commercial organizations. Marta met her second husband, Gerhard Margreiter in Austria. He died on 7 March 2011 in Vienna.

Marta published more than 50 scientific papers and expert opinions and participated actively in many scientific congresses and conferences. She was honoured with the naming of a new species of fly (Chironomidae, Diptera) in her name—*Diamesa marta*. Her biography is published in “The Great Encyclopedia of the Tatra Mts” (Paryska, Paryski, 1995).

Andrzej Kownacki