



Editorial “Special Issue: Hans Hess: a lifelong passion for fossil echinoderms”

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Already back in 2011, an echinoderm special issue was published on the occasion of Hans’ 80th birthday (Meyer, 2011) and this was also the first issue of the Swiss Journal of Palaeontology. Moreover, since its appearance in 2011, Hans had published almost all of his research articles in the Swiss Journal of Palaeontology (Hess 2012, 2014a; b, c, d, 2015; Hess et al. 2016; Hess & Thuy 2018), a total of eight articles in six years, four of which were published in 2014. In the present issue the last article of Hans is published, where he reflects on the emergence and early radiation of cyrtocrinid crinoids, with new species from a Lower to Middle Jurassic “rock reef” of Feuguerolles (France); the article is co-authored by Ben Thuy (Hess &

Thuy, 2018). All of Hans’ contributions were of outstanding quality already by the time of submission and generally required minor revisions only. He truly was an exceptional contributor for our journal.

To honour Hans Hess and his lifelong passion for fossil echinoderms, shortly after his death, we decided to publish a second Special Issue in the Swiss Journal of Palaeontology. And we got a really excellent feedback from the fossil echinoderm research community. All together, 21 research articles are included in the present issue. This includes not only an obituary by Etter (2018) reviewing Hans’ research career and providing a complete reference list ranging from 1955 to 2018, but also giving interesting insights into other aspects of his rich life.

Four of the five extant groups of echinoderms are covered in Hans’ publications. Only holothurians were rarely treated by Hans, although he did include them in his seminal popular science book “Die fossilen Echinodermen des Schweizer Juras” (Hess 1975). Unfortunately, the holothurians are missing in this volume. However, it is planned to fill this gap with an article on holothurians by Mike Reich with a special dedication to Hans in a forthcoming volume of the Swiss Journal of Palaeontology.

In this Special Issue, four new taxa are named in honour of Hans Hess: *Trombonocrinus* (col.) *hanshessi* gen. et sp. nov. (Donovan et al. 2018), *Eocenocrinus hessi* gen. et sp. nov. (Merle & Roux, 2018), *Hanshessaster* gen. nov. including species *Actinometra blakei* (Messing 2018), and *Hansaster* (gen. nov.) *trimbachensis* (Gale 2018). Furthermore, the following new taxa were erected: *Proptera-ster amourensis* gen. et sp. nov. (Gale 2018), *Thuyaster fontenoillensis* gen. et sp. nov. (Gale 2018), *Stegophiura miyazakii* sp. nov. (Ishida et al. 2018), *Luxaster martini* gen. et sp. nov. (Müller et al. 2018), *Hypselaster strougoi* sp. nov. (Elattaar 2018), and *Clypeaster sarawakensis* sp. nov. (Mihaljević & Rosenblatt 2018).

Nowadays, it is not always easy to find qualified researchers willing to review in a short time period, especially when it comes to more specific research topics as we

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often deal with in palaeontology. Therefore, we want to particularly acknowledge the reviewers who have substantially contributed to assure the high quality of the herein published articles. They are (in alphabetical order) William I. Ausich, Tomasz Baumiller, Stephen K. Donovan, Tim A.M. Ewin, Andrew Gale, David Gladwell, Hans Hagdorn, Reimund Haude, Fred Hotchkiss, Aaron W. Hunter, John Jagt, Christian Klug, Andreas Kroh, Charles Messing, David Meyer, Georgy Mirantsev, Elise Nardin, James Nebelsick, Tatsuo Oji, Roger W. Portell, Imran Rahman, Elizabeth Rhenberg, Mariusz Salamon, James Saulsbury, George D. Sevestopulo, James R. Thomka, Loïc Villier, Johnny Waters, Gary D. Webster and Samuel Zamora. Some of these reviewers have reviewed up to four manuscripts.

Finally, we want to thank Hans for his yearlong friendship, the many fruitful discussion and all the knowledge he shared with us over so many years.

List of contributions of the Hans Hess Echinoderm Special Issue

Etter, W. (2018). Hans Hess (1930–2017): a life-long passion for echinoderms. *Swiss Journal of Palaeontology*, 137/2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13358-017-0143-8>

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