

Biology of Rotifers

Developments in Hydrobiology 14

Series editor
H. J. Dumont

Biology of Rotifers

*Proceedings of the Third International Rotifer Symposium
held at Uppsala, Sweden, August 30 – September 4, 1982*

Edited by

B. Pejler, R. Starkweather and Th. Nogrady

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Preface

Since the two previous rotifer symposia in Lunz and Gent were highly successful, it was considered important to continue the tradition every third year. Thus a third rotifer symposium was held in Uppsala, Sweden, Aug. 30–Sept. 4, 1982.

In the beginning of 1981 the first circular was mailed to the participants of the previous symposia, who in turn were requested to suggest names of other scientists to be invited. As a result many people expressed interest, about 70 of whom finally participated in the symposium (not including temporary visitors from nearby). The participants represented 22 countries, in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

As with the earlier symposia, some subjects were selected in advance, mainly during discussions between Henri Dumont, Birger Pejler and Peter Starkweather when they met at the SIL congress in Kyoto 1980. Some broad topics such as 'Marine rotifers' were covered for the first time, while other topics were continuations, though more specialized, of previous themes. Thus it is interesting to follow, through the three symposium volumes, recent development within the areas of feeding, population dynamics and ultrastructure.

Each prospective participant (with the exception of the reviewers) was invited to present one short paper (alone or with collaborators), which resulted in more than 40 such contributions. Thus, the week's schedule became very crowded, unfortunately leaving no time for more comprehensive workshops etc. However, during the evenings general discussions were held on the topics presented during the day.

As with the second rotifer symposium, it was possible to publish the contributions of the third in *Hydrobiologia* and as a volume in its series 'Developments in Hydrobiology', thanks to the courtesy of the directorate of Dr W. Junk BV Publishers and its editor H. J. Dumont. The manuscripts have been revised more or less thoroughly, in linguistic and other respects, by the editors of the volume. In some cases abbreviations were made.

The symposium was mainly lodged at Sunnersta Herrgård, a youth hostel outside Uppsala, which is generally offered as a conference site during the cold season. However, because of conflicts with late summer tourism about half of the participants had to be accommodated in hotels in the city of Uppsala. In order to provide enough space for the general assemblies, a nearby parish hall of the Church of Sweden was rented.

One Wednesday afternoon was devoted to sightseeing in Uppsala, including a visit to the Limnological Institute and a reception in the administration building of the University. For those who stayed until Saturday, Sept. 4, an excursion was arranged to Linnés Hammarby, Carl Linnaeus' summer home, and to the ecological field station at Lake Erken.



Participants of the Third International Rotifer Symposium

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Udo Halbach (left) in a conversation with Kare Lindström during the symposium.

Udo Halbach in memoriam

While preparing this volume for press the tragic message reached us that our esteemed colleague, Prof. Udo Halbach (Frankfurt am Main, F.R.G.) had recently died of a heart attack. His review, presented at the symposium, unfortunately has not yet been revised and thus cannot be included in the volume. It would have been a very valuable contribution to the literature on rotifer ecology, entitled "Population dynamics of rotifers and its consequences for ecotoxicology". Hopefully it will be published at a later date.

Rotifer research in particular has suffered a great loss, but Udo Halbach also made great contributions in general theoretical ecology, and later in ecotoxicology as well. In his scientific work he dealt primarily with two rotifer species, viz. *Brachionus calyciflorus* Pallas and *B. rubens* Ehrbg, which he analysed experimentally, e.g. studying the influence of temperature and food on the population dynamics. He also studied the effects of competition and predation, and this ultimate aim was to master an understanding of the interactions between the populations and their entire environmental complex. In connection with predation the interesting *Asplanchna-Brachionus*-problem was included in Halbach's research as well, a problem previously dealt with by Marais de Beauchamp, John Gilbert and Roger Pourriot.

Cyclic oscillations were placed in focus in some of Halbach's investigations, along with his interest in seasonal morphological variation. In some connections he discussed synecological and evolutionary problems, further evidence of Udo Halbach's diversified authority. He analysed his material by using more and more advanced mathematical methods. In his ecotoxicological studies both deterministic and stochastic models were applied. His investigations proceeded logically, step by step. At Udo Halbach's death his research had reached a level where great practical applications were within sight.

It is a great tragedy that his excellent work had to be interrupted at such a premature date. Udo Halbach, who lived only 43 years, would certainly have made many more important contributions to science. Those of us who remember his pleasant and brilliant personality feel a great loss indeed. He will be kept in honorable commemoration.

Birger Pejler

