

Guy Teugels

1954-2003

Member of Editorial Board of
 Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters

Guy Teugels was born on 17 June 1954 and passed away on 22 June 2003 at the age of 49. After his masters in biology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), he started his Ph.D. research on African clariid catfishes in 1977, under the guidance of Dirk Thys van den Audenaerde at the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium. He finished his doctoral thesis in 1983.

In 1984, he became employed at the Laboratoire d'Ichtyologie Générale et Appliquée of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, France. By his specialisation in African fishes he, de facto, followed in the footsteps of Jacques Daget. During his years in Paris, he collaborated with colleagues from the French ORSTOM (now IRD, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement), who were very active in West Africa.

In 1988, he returned to the Africa Museum to become curator of fishes, to succeed to two reputed experts of the African fish fauna, Max Poll and Dirk Thys van den Audenaerde. In 1996, a second ichthyology position was opened (focusing on the cichlids of the great lakes) and Guy became responsible for research on and the collections of the non-cichlid fishes.

While in Tervuren, he continued to closely collaborate with his French colleagues, mainly in western Africa. His projects concentrated on Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Benin. He considered training as an important aspect of all his projects and many African

ichthyologists in the region benefited considerably from his guidance. He also collaborated in a project on the catfishes of South-East Asia. His research concentrated on taxonomy and biodiversity, but through his projects and students he also got involved in aspects of aquaculture and fisheries. Catfish, and especially the clariids, remained his favourite group throughout his career.

He co-authored over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals, almost a third of which as a first author, but mostly from his earlier periods. He wrote numerous other scientific notes and reports. He was one of the editors of the "Faune des poissons d'eaux douces et saumâtres de l'Afrique de l'Ouest" and the driving force behind the future publication of a similar book on the fishes of the Lower Guinea Province.

Guy was a committee member of all three Panafrican meetings on Fish and Fisheries (Senegal, South-Africa, Benin). In 1999, he became part-time lecturer at the Leuven University.

Guy had started chemical treatment for a tumour about one and a half year before he died. During his treatment he continued working and corresponding with his colleagues, mostly from home. One cannot but have a high regard for his dedication to African ichthyology and the amount of time and energy he put into his work.

Jos Snoeks*

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