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Editorial

200 years Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Bavarian State Collection of Zoology Munich)

In the frame of our 200th anniversary several successful events have taken place since the first issue of Spixiana was published:

- (1) 50 delegates of the supporting society (our “Friends”) of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM) explored places of interest in the capital Vienna, Austria in June.
- (2) An excursion to Höchstädt a.d. Aisch, the birthplace of our 1st director, Johann Baptist Ritter von Spix, was organised in October. There the Ritter von Spix medal was awarded to Prof. Axel Alf for the generous legacy of his malacological collection to the ZSM.
- (3) The special anniversary exhibition “200 Jahre ZSM” in our sister-institute, the Museum Mensch und Natur in the Nymphenburg Castle, gained interest of about 100000 visitors and thus ended with great success in October.
- (4) Further highlights of our history, our collections and our various research activities were presented in lectures, light and sound shows.
- (5) Diverse art exhibitions were opened on festive evenings.
- (6) The biography of Johann Baptist Ritter von Spix, eponym for this journal, was presented by the author Prof. Klaus Schönitzer in special events in November and December.

The cover of the last issue of Spixiana showed the splendid “Afrikasaal” of the ZSM in the Old Academy building in Neuhauser Straße shortly before its devastation through aerial bombing in 1944. The cover of this issue presents actual images of our museum showing the entrance, atrium, scanning EM and collection room of our current building, which houses our huge collections since 1985 in the western part of Munich. Furthermore, illustrations giving a survey of the research activities of our staff, a variety of zoological objects, and the 1st director of the ZSM are depicted (photos by Timea Neusser, Stefan Schmidt, Frank Glaw, Sławomir Kuczkowski, Tobias Lehmann and Michael Balke).

Following the normal publication scheme of Spixiana, studies by external authors as well as employees of the ZSM are again combined in this issue to show the diversity of our research and service activities. In Spixiana 34(2) the reader will find papers on classical taxonomy (D. Fehse on p. 147, M. Baehr on p. 199, R. R. Ferrari & A. Nemésio on p. 221), faunistic surveys (H. Ghahari & M. Schwarz on p. 195) high tech analysis of larval morphology (S. C. Buys on p. 225) and reproductive organs (M. Kotrba on p. 215), ecological studies of the fauna of springs (T. Goldschmidt & R. R. Melzer on p. 153), and a fish type catalogue (D. Neumann on p. 231). Finally we remember in an obituary on p. 146 our colleague and friend Wolfgang Schacht (1939–2011).

This is the second part of Spixiana’s jubilee volume dedicated to the curators, preparators, technicians, and the whole staff as well as students, associates and supporters of the ZSM of the past 200 years.

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