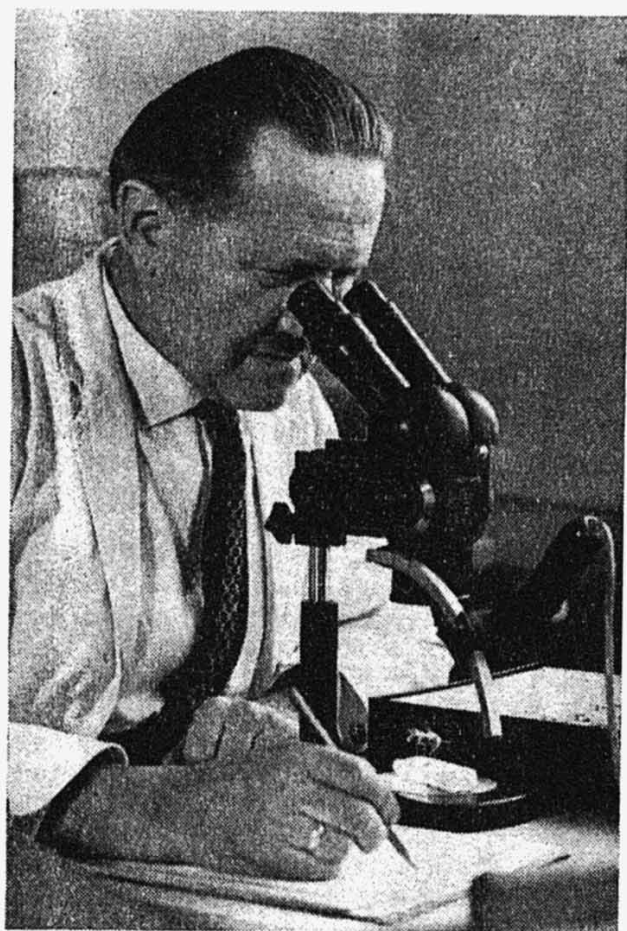


65th anniversary of Prof. Dr. Wolfdietrich Eichler



The well known German parasitologist Prof. Dr. W. Eichler has lately celebrated a significant anniversary. He was born 22. 12. 1912 in Ravensburg in the family of a civil engineer. Since his youth he has displayed a lively interest in natural sciences and as a student he already published his first papers on ornithology and aviparasitology. In the years 1931—1938 he studied in Munich, Göttingen and Berlin, where he graduated after submitting his thesis on the problem of biology of a new species of grasshopper. Since 1933 he worked as Prof. Wetzel's assistant at the former Nöller Institute and was concerned with the hypodermatosis of cattle. In subsequent years he paid attention to the problems of vector control. However, his interest was still more attracted by the studies on Mallophaga, particularly the problems of evolutionary systematics and phylogenetic parallelism. After the war he briefly worked in the field of fishery and agricultural entomology. In 1949 he was appointed Professor in Parasitology at the Veterinary Faculty of the Leipzig University and simultaneously became Director

of the local Institute of Parasitology. In 1954 he transferred to Kleinmachnow near Berlin where he headed the parasitological department, the first public health institution specializing in parasitology in the German Democratic Republic. There he was concerned with medical parasitology and testing of insecticides. In 1968 he became Professor in Parasitology at the Humboldt University in Berlin and started his activities at the Museum für Naturkunde where he is still working at present. Besides Mallophaga, his main interest has been focused on very topical problems — the biology of the ant *Monomorium pharaonis*, its medical importance and control. In recent years his investigations have been also devoted to some less known groups of insect pests and to the environmental problems.

In professional circles Prof. Eichler is very well known primarily through his publications. He is the author of over 700 scientific and professional papers and the sole author or co-author of many monographs such as "Malariabekämpfung durch Streuflugzeuge", "Behandlungstechnik parasitärer Insekten", "Mallophaga" (in Bronn's Klassen und Ordnungen des Tierreichs), "Taxonomie und Biologie der Mallophagen und Läuse mitteleuropäischer Haus- und Nutztiere", and "Parasitologisch-insektizidkundliches Wörterbuch". He also edited two well known monographs "Insektizide heutzutage" and "Handbuch der Insektizidkunde". He has been one of the founders and is the editor-in-chief of the journal "Angewandte Parasitologie" (18 volumes) and the founder and co-editor of the series „Parasitologische Schriftenreihe" (23 volumes).

Prof. Eichler is in frequent contact with specialists in many countries of the whole world. Both in his home country and abroad he participated in many congresses, symposia and spent short periods as visiting researcher and lecturer. In these activities he made good use of his linguistic knowledge enabling him to speak fluently in several world languages and to read literature in others.

In recognition of his participation in the peace movement in the G. D. R. he was awarded a silver medal for meritorious services.

On the occasion of this anniversary we wish Prof. Eichler many successes in his scientific and public activities and much health and happiness in his personal life.

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