

Obituary

Walter Hüther, 1931–2019

Soil Zoologist with an interest in Pauropoda

Amongst the distinguished myriapodologists present at the International Myriapod Congress at Manchester in April 1972 was Walther Hüther who presented a paper on the ecology of pauropods (Hüther, 1974). Born in Saarland and at school in Zweibrücken, he took his doctorate from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, looking at the fauna of vineyard soils with special consideration of Collembola and Acari. He then carried out research at the Technical University of Braunschweig from 1960 before working at the University of Saarbrücken, continuing his interest in soil organisms. In 1970 he moved to Ruhr-University Bochum where he remained until his retirement in 1996, dying at Bochum in 2019. An obituary and appreciation of his work with a list of publications was published in 2020 and is available on open access (Decker *et al.*, 2020).

During his lifetime, Dr Hüther described one genus and eight species of pauropods as well as one genus and thirteen species of collembolans and one proturan. As well as his more academic work, he also brought his expertise to support local citizen science surveys. To honour his taxonomic work eleven soil arthropods have been named after him. His Manchester paper, along with that of Ulf Scheller on pauropods of arable soils in Great Britain and presented at the same congress (Scheller, 1974), is probably one of the good starting points for anyone interested in working on these small myriapods.

References

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