

Andrzej Sulimski (1926–1997)

For more than forty years, beginning in 1955, Andrzej Sulimski was our colleague, a member of the scientific staff of the Institute of Paleobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He died last summer, the 28th of July, from a heart infarction. His death surprised us, although we knew he was suffering from a heart complaint and that it was his second infarction.

Andrzej was born on the 18th of October 1926 in Brześć on the Bug River, Eastern Poland. He thus belonged to the generation that ended its high school education just after the war. After his studies at Wrocław and Warsaw Universities consecutively, he earned an MA degree in paleontology in 1955. The same year he obtained an assistant position at the Institute of Paleozoology (some years ago renamed the Institute of Paleobiology) of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and worked there until he retired in 1991. In 1965 he earned his Ph.D. degree at Warsaw University.

Andrzej's MA thesis concerned a certain group of the Foraminifera from the Polish Miocene, but it was his only contact with micropaleontology. All his interests and professional activities were associated with vertebrate paleontology. In fact, Andrzej's scientific life consisted of two different parts. First of all, he was an expert in the field of small mammals: insectivores, rodents, and hares, from the Polish Cenozoic karst formations. Eight of his papers were devoted to these groups of mammals, among others his Ph.D Thesis: 'Pliocene Lagomorpha and Rodentia from Węże 1 (Poland)' printed in 1964 in *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. To geologists working on the Tertiary terrestrial deposits Andrzej was a recognized specialist of the taxonomy of these mammalian groups, and as such, he had an extensive collaboration with them which resulted in many joint papers.



In the second part of his life, Andrzej was involved in palaeoherpetological studies, and produced several papers on the Late Cretaceous lizards from the Gobi Desert. Some of them became classical descriptions of some important and interesting lizard groups of the Late Mesozoic of Asia, detailed and perfectly illustrated by the author himself. His monograph 'Macrocephalosauridae and Polyglyphanodontidae (Sauria) from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia' printed in 1975 in the series of Results of the Polish-Mongolian Palaeontological Expeditions, part VI, *Palaeontologia Polonica* (33), was the most important of them.

Very early, Andrzej Sulimski proved to be a good field worker. He explored the well known karst formation of the Pliocene age of the locality Węże in the Częstochowa region, Central Poland, and then supervised the chemical preparation of the collected materials. In 1960 he discovered a new outcrop of this locality rich in fossils. Still earlier, in 1959, he discovered and collected the remains of marine lizards Mosasauridae in the Polish Cretaceous. He described this material in his first palaeoherpetological paper of 1968. Beginning in 1963, he took part in several Polish-Mongolian Palaeontological expeditions to the Gobi Desert, and he was very active in collecting Cretaceous mammals, lizards and dinosaurs as well as Tertiary mammals. It was Andrzej Sulimski who found the famous fossil dinosaur couple, the so-called fighting dinosaur, a herbivorous *Protoceratops* and a carnivorous *Velociraptor* in a position suggestive of fierce combat.

This is to say farewell to Andrzej, whom we shall always remember as a very cooperative colleague and a kind person.