



Contribution ID : 85

Type : **Oral**

Elias Landolt (1926 – 2013), father of modern duckweed research

lunedì 28 settembre 2026 16:30 (40)

The late Elias Landolt was famous as the unquestionable top scientific expert on the plant family of Lemnaceae, commonly called duckweed or water lentils. He was an honorary member of the Swiss Botanical Society, a Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich ("Eidgenössisch Technische Hochschule", ETH) and director of the Geobotanical Institute until his retirement in 1993. Interestingly, he did not start his scientific career by investigating duckweeds nor was he only focused on duckweed research during his scientific life. He published more than 70 papers on Lemnaceae and more than 150 papers about other topics, mainly related to the flora of Switzerland and of Zurich in specific. He wrote a two volume book "The family of Lemnaceae - a monographic study", volume 2 together with Riklef Kandeler, with approximately 3000 references, which is available in internet (1, 2). His collection of living Lemnaceae species, which exceeded much more than 1000 clones, remains "the invaluable legacy" also for further duckweed research. (cf. Duckweed Forum 41, 47-54 (2023)). In this year we celebrate the 100th birthday of the father of modern duckweed research.

Corresponding author email

bka@uni-jena.de

Scientific Session

Keywords

Geobotany; Stock collections; taxonomy

References

- (1) Landolt, E. (1986). The Family of Lemnaceae – A Monographic Study. Vol. 1. Biosystematic Investigations in the Family of Duckweeds (Lemnaceae). Zurich: Veröffentlichungen des Geobotanischen Institutes der ETH, Stiftung Rübel. (2) Landolt, E., and Kandeler, R. (1987). The Family of Lemnaceae – A Monographic Study. Vol. 2. Biosystematic Investigations in the Family of Duckweeds (Lemnaceae). Zurich: Veröffentlichungen des Geobotanischen Institutes der ETH, Stiftung Rübel. <https://www.e-periodica.ch/digbib/view?pid=gbi-002%3A1987%3A95%3A%3A3>

Primary author(s) : Prof. APPENROTH, Klaus J. (4Department of Plant Physiology, Matthias-Schleiden-Institute, Friedrich-Schiller- University of Jena,)

Presenter(s) : Prof. APPENROTH, Klaus J. (4Department of Plant Physiology, Matthias-Schleiden-Institute, Friedrich-Schiller- University of Jena,)

Session Classification : Honorary Session — Elias Landolt centenary - Keynote speech