

Notes and References

1. LANKESTER, E. (*Editor*) 1848: Correspondence of John Ray, London, Ray Society; p.12. Lister's letter is printed in the original Latin.
2. RAVEN, C. E. 1947: *English Naturalists from Neckham to Ray*, Cambridge, C.U.P.
3. LISNEY, A. A. 1960: *A Bibliography of British Lepidoptera 1608-1799*, London, Chiswick Press.
4. Possibly in exchange for notes and drawings of plants, or perhaps after Gesner's death when Penny helped Caspar Wolf in the task of sorting out the master's collection.
5. RAVEN, *op. cit.*; p.155.
6. WOTTON, E. 1551: *De Differentiis Animalium*, Paris.
7. RAVEN, *op. cit.*; pp. 172-73. Raven does not appear to have seen the manuscript.
8. HARRISON, T. P. 1965: *John White and Edward Topsell*, Univ. Texas Press. Harrison states that at least three of the paintings in Mouffet's manuscript are by John White, artist under Thomas Harriot for the Raleigh expeditions to Virginia, and a correspondent of Penny's.
9. COOPER, *Athenae Cantabrigiensis*, II, pp.400-02 and the *DNB*, XXXVIII, p.103.
10. A close friend of Toppell's who is also mentioned by John Parkinson as a primary source on the title-page of his *Theatrum Botanicum* of 1640. A barber-surgeon and rather an obscure figure he was obviously held in high esteem as a naturalist by his contemporaries.
11. His *Etymology* was one of the most widely circulated and quoted of the medieval encyclopedias.
12. One of the greatest French naturalists and travellers of the Renaissance. Mouffet's extracts come from Belon's *Les Observations de plusieurs singularites et choses memorables*, Paris, 1554.
13. A variation of *galt* meaning boar or hog.

JACQUES DENIS, 1902-1972

C'est un grand arachnologiste qui disparaît.

Jacques Denis est né à Paris le 1^{er} October 1902. Ses études l'ont porté à devenir ingénieur des Arts et Metiers et, pendant trent-cinq ans, c'est comme ingénieur des mines dans les houillères de Douchy, de Denain et d'Anzin qu'il a passé une bonne partie de son existence. Malheureusement, au cours de cette vie souterraine, sa santé s'est dégradée et il a contracté le mal qui petit à petit l'affaiblissait, au point que ces deux dernières années ont été très pénibles pour lui, il est décédé le 24 avril 1972 à Longeville (Vendée).

Mais c'est aussi au fond des houillères où il eut la surprise de constater la présence de certaines espèces d'Araignées, qui s'est manifestée son attraction pour l'étude de ces animaux. Naturaliste dans l'âme, c'est surtout en systématicien qu'il a étudié les Aranéides, chassant lui-même dans différentes régions de notre pays, notamment dans le Nord de la France, la Région méditerranéenne, les Pyrénées, la Bretagne, la Vendée; il s'est aussi occupé de nombreuses collections qu'on lui faisait parvenir de certains pays (Belgique, Baléares, Maroc, Algérie, Libye, Egypte, Sahara, Canaries, Madère, Açores, Liban,

Afghanistan).

J. Denis a ainsi publié plus de deux cent cinquante memoires et articles comprenant une série de quarante deux notes sur les Erigonides dont il était devenu le grand spécialiste. Ajoutons que pendant une quarantaine d'années il a été le systématicien français connaissant le mieux les Araignées de notre pays et c'est souvent que l'on faisait appel à lui pour des déterminations.

Ce travail considérable qu'il a produit, de 1930 à 1970, il l'a fait avec une passion extraordinaire et un dévouement admirable. Je crois devoir souligner que, naturaliste amateur, travaillant isolément en dehors de tout laboratoire officiel (où, quoique l'on dise, l'aide matérielle est précieuse). Jacques Denis était obligé de subvenir par lui-même à toutes les dépenses que ses recherches lui imposaient: voyages pour les récoltes, microscope, binoculaire, tubes, bocal, alcool, classeurs, papier, correspondance, participation à l'impression des travaux, paiement des tirés à part, cotisations aux Sociétés scientifiques dont il faisait partie et surtout achat de nombreux ouvrages, certains de grande valeur, ce qui lui avait permis de monter une bibliothèque de première importance dans sa spécialité. Tout cela, pris sur le

budget familial, représente un certain sacrifice et fait de ce naturaliste amateur, passionné des Araignées, un héros de notre science; mais il laisse ainsi un grand nom qui fait honneur à sa famille et à l'Arachnologie.

Pierre BONNET

A great arachnologist has passed away. Jacques Denis was born in Paris on 1 October, 1902. He studied engineering and for 35 years spent much of his life as a mining engineer in the coal mines of Douchy, Derain and Anzin. Unfortunately as a result of working underground his health suffered and he contracted the illness which, little by little, weakened him to the point that his last 2 years were very distressing, and he died on 24 April at Longeville in the Vendée.

But it was also in the coal mines that he was surprised to find certain species of spiders and so began his attraction for the study of these animals. A born naturalist, it was especially as a systematist that he studied spiders, hunting them in different regions of France, notably in the north, the mediterranean region, the Pyrenees, Brittany, the Vendée; he was also occupied with numerous collections which came to him from many countries (Belgium, Balearic Islands,

Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sahara, Canary Isles, Madeira, Azores, Lebanon, Afganistan).

J. Denis published more than 250 papers and articles including a series of 42 notes on the erigonids, on which he became a great specialist. For 40 years he was the French systematist who knew best the spiders of his country and he was often asked for assistance in making determinations.

The considerable work which he produced from 1930 to 1970, was done with an extraordinary passion and admirable devotion. I think it should be stressed that he was an amateur naturalist working in isolation without any official laboratory (where, whatever one says, material help is precious). Jacques Denis was obliged to meet all the expenditure himself which his research imposed on him, collecting trips, microscope, binoculars, tubes, jars, alcohol, filing cabinets, paper, correspondence, printing costs, payment for separates, subscriptions to scientific societies, and especially the purchase of numerous texts, some of considerable value, which enabled him to build up a library of first-class importance in his speciality. All this, on a family budget, represented a real sacrifice and made this amateur naturalist, so keen on spiders, a hero of our science; he leaves behind a great name which brings honour to his family and to arachnology.

Trans. E.D.



M. Jacques Denis on the dunes at La Belle Helene, Vendée, France, June 1964.

Photograph by courtesy of E. Duffey.