
Preface

When Ebbe Nielsen died so prematurely in March 2001, discussions began immediately to find suitable ways to commemorate his life and to celebrate his contributions to science. At a meeting of the Australian Entomological Society, members suggested that a volume on Lepidoptera, with papers written by some of his many friends and colleagues, would be a fitting memorial. The subject was raised at a meeting of the Editorial Advisory Committee of *Invertebrate Taxonomy* (now *Invertebrate Systematics*). The editor agreed to publish a special issue of the journal dedicated to Ebbe's memory. CSIRO Publishing approached us to undertake the task of editing the memorial volume, and we found it very easy to say yes. As space was limited, we primarily invited contributions from Ebbe's lepidopterist friends and colleagues, those who had worked and collaborated with Ebbe throughout his career. Although most of them immediately agreed to write contributions, a few decided to continue with previous publication plans for larger, ongoing studies of the Australian fauna. These contributions also will be an appropriate memorial, especially as they were all inspired by Ebbe. A few potential authors were forced to decline because their current commitments could simply not be reconciled with the very

short time frame and limited space available. We also decided to include a bibliography of Ebbe's published works and three introductory papers to show the full range of Ebbe's commitments and contributions, well beyond lepidopteran systematics. We thank Malcolm Scoble, Max Whitten and Jim Edwards for writing these papers.

We are very grateful to the authors who agreed to contribute to this memorial issue despite the short notice, and to the referees who responded very promptly to our requests to review papers. The range and scope of the contributions reflects Ebbe's broad impact on lepidopteran systematics, well beyond the groups that he directly worked on himself. The completion of several projects that Ebbe had planned with friends and colleagues long ago is particularly gratifying. It is one of the many ways Ebbe lives on, not only in our memories but also through the inspiration he left behind with all of us. We have pleasure in dedicating this volume to the memory of our friend and colleague, Ebbe Schmidt Nielsen.

Marianne Horak and Bruce Halliday
December 2002