

Dr. JADWIGA GRABDA (1907–1981)

Obituary

Dr. Jadwiga Grabda was born in Warsaw on October 27, 1907. She studied zoology (1927–1932) at the Warsaw University, parasitology being her special field of interest in which she was supervised by Professor Konstancy Janicki, himself a well-known parasitologist. Her first independent scientific publication was "Ancyrocephalus vistu-



lensis n.sp., un nouveau trématode parasite du silure (*Silurus glanis* L.)" published, under her maiden name of Siwak, in 1932 in the Bulletin of the Polish Academy of Science, Cracow.

In 1933 she took up an assistantship at the M. Nencki Institute of Experimental Morphology; in 1934 she was employed by the State Zoological Museum in Warsaw. Until the World War II Dr. J. Grabda was a secondary school teacher.

In 1934 she married Eugeniusz Grabda, her university colleague.

In 1933 Dr. J. Grabda paid a brief working visit to the Biological Station at Agigea near Constanta, Roumania, and in 1934 to the Biological Station at Varna, Bulgaria. Her encounter with parasites of the Black Sea fishes directed her attention to this line of research; however, she could pursue it only after having settled down in Szczecin, many years after the World War II. Her interest in those parasites resulted in several papers co-authored by her husband. Some of the materials perished during the war.

Within the years 1946–1954 Dr. J. Grabda worked as an adjunct at the Bydgoszcz Veterinary Medicine Institute's Parasitology and Invasive Diseases Department and Fish Diseases Department. This period brought papers on domestic animals parasitology and methods of combatting the invasions.

After the two departments had been closed down, Dr. J. Grabda became a head of the Fish Diseases Field Laboratory in Olsztyn, taking an active part in fighting parasitoses and bacterial diseases in farms of northern Poland. She continued publishing and paid a particular attention to studies on freshwater parasitic copepods. Her results obtained during that time, particularly on the Lake Jamno bream tracheliasis, were widely recognised and frequently referred to by Z. Kabata in his "Crustacea as enemies of fishes".

In 1963 Dr. J. Grabda obtained her doctoral degree for a dissertation entitled "Life cycle and morphogenesis of *Lernaea cyprinacea*" (published in *Acta Parasitologica Polonica*), the study being frequently referred to by various authors. At that time she published also numerous (a total of 48) popular science and instructive articles.

In 1954 Dr. J. Grabda lectured on parasitology at the N. Copernicus University in Toruń.

After moving to Szczecin she took up an adjunct's position at the Institute of Ichthyology's Fish Diseases Department (Faculty of Marine Fisheries, Academy of Agriculture in Szczecin). There she was able to devote her full attention, until her death prevented it, to her beloved field of marine fish parasitology. She taught fish diseases and published a number of papers on biology and taxonomy of parasitic copepods such as *Lernaeolophis sultanus*, *Cecrops lattareilli*, *Colobomatus gymnoscopeli* sp.n., *Haemobaphes disphaerocephalus*, and others as well as on parasitic fauna of various fish species.

During this time she published "Acanthocephala" for the Polish Fauna Catalogue (1971) and "Parasites of Cyclostomata and Pisces", her contribution to the Polish Parasitic Fauna Catalogue (1971); additionally, she co-authored the "Zoological Dictionary" (1951).

In 1971 Dr. J. Grabda commenced her comprehensive studies on the *Anisakis simplex* stage 3 larvae, a cause of *Anisakiasis*, a common anthroozoonoze absorbing the attention of many workers all over the world. She described in detail the biology of the parasite and physico-chemical conditions governing its viability and development. She was able, as the first to do it, to observe in vitro and describe a full life cycle of the parasite and thus to establish its correct name. The project, supported and sponsored by the Fisheries Central Board in Szczecin helped to prevent human infestations in Poland and to alter the requirements of fish products processing technologies. The project was also financed by the Food and Drug Administration of the USA. Crews of Polish trawlers were being trained during sixteen 1-week parasitologic courses taught by Dr. J. Grabda within 1974–1979.

When carrying out the project, Dr. J. Grabda detected the presence of a separate, *Anisakis*-infested herring stock entering the Southern Baltic from the North Sea to spawn here. Until then Baltic had been regarded as housing only the native herring free of *Anisakis* owing to the absence of euphausiid crustaceans.

In 1977 Dr J. Grabda published her lectures on marine fish parasitology, a book edition of her "Fundamentals of Marine Fish Parasitology" appearing post-humously (Polish Scientific Publishers, 1981, 337 pp). It is a completely individual work based mainly on the late Author's own data and – along with C. Sindermann's "Principal diseases of marine fish and shellfish" (Acad Press, 1970) – a unique one.

Dr. J. Grabda contributed to "Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria" with a number of her papers.

Dr. J. Grabda formally retired on October 1, 1974; however, she did not suspend her research and, in spite of a long-lasting and tiresome illness, continued working until the very last moment of her life. She passed away on November 20, 1981, but lives in the memory of her relatives, friends, collaborators, and students.