

## Professor Eugeniusz Grabda (1908–1997), founder of *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*

Eugeniusz Grabda was born in Warsaw on 18 April 1908. In 1934, he graduated from the University of Warsaw, earning a Master's degree in philosophy in the field of zoology and comparative anatomy. In 1938 he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the same university. Because of the war, he had to wait for his veterinary diploma until 1949. During his student years, he showed interest in the parasitology of aquatic organisms. After graduation, he was hired as an assistant in the Department of Histology and Embryology. In April 1939, he received a specialization scholarship in the field of fish diseases, under the supervision of the famous parasitologist Professor Konstanty Janicki, and Professor Franciszek Staff. In the September campaign of WW2, Eugeniusz Grabda fought in the defense of Lwów. During the German occupation, he worked at the Fish Disease Department of the Veterinary Institute in Puławy and was also in charge of the vaccine production plant in nearby Michałowka from 1943 to 1945. In 1946, he was appointed Head of the Bydgoszcz Branch of the Veterinary Institute, where he ran the Division of Fish Diseases and Parasitology. In the years to follow, he actively joined the mainstream of the country's reconstruction, being involved in organizational and educational work in the field. He participated in the restitution of the Veterinary Institute in Bydgoszcz. As the Head of the Department of Fish Diseases there, he carried out his field studies in the provinces of Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, and Szczecin. In 1952, he returned to academic activities and was appointed Head of the Department of Zoology at the Faculty of the Animal Husbandry, University of Agriculture in Wrocław, where he also served as Vice-Dean. In 1954 he moved to Olsztyn to participate in the creation of the first university in the region of Warmia and Mazury. From 1954 to 1969 he worked in Olsztyn at the Fisheries Department of the Agricultural University. He was Head of the Division of Fish Diseases, Head of the Department of Ichthyology (1956–1966), Dean of the Fisheries Department (1957–1958, 1965–1966), and Rector of the University of Agriculture in Olsztyn. In 1970, he was transferred to Szczecin, where he worked at the Agricultural University as the Director of the Institute of Ichthyology and Head of the Division of Fish Diseases until his retirement in 1978.

He obtained his Doctoral degree in parasitology in 1945 at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, after defending the dissertation entitled "On the structure and formation of cysts in the flukes *Nematobothrium sardae*". He became an Associate Professor in 1954 and a Full Professor in 1963. Professor Grabda was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of both the Agricultural and Technical University in Olsztyn (in 1975) and the Agricultural University in Szczecin (in 1989). He was a supervisor of 23 doctoral dissertations and over 100 MSc theses, and a reviewer of 23 doctoral dissertations. The scientific output of Professor Grabda includes 163 research articles and 13 books, mainly devoted to the issues of fish parasitology, some to the parasites of crayfish, amphibians, insects, birds, and horses, fish pathology, fish intoxication, and control of fish parasites. The best known is his five-volume textbook on Invertebrate Zoology. Professor Eugeniusz Grabda and his wife, Dr Jadwiga Grabda, are considered founders of the Polish school of marine parasitology.



In addition to his scientific activity, Professor Grabda was involved in the management of many scientific bodies. He was a member of the Main Council of Higher Education in 1958–1962 and 1962–1969, and member of committees and scientific councils at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Central Qualification Committee for Scientific Personnel (1973–1976), and the scientific councils of the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, the Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn, the Institute of Parasitology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, and the Institute of Biology and Waters of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow. He was also a member of the Parasitological Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1958–1963), a member and Chair of the Fisheries Committee of the Animal Production Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1963–1974), and a member and Vice-Chair of the Polish Academy of Sciences Hydrobiological Committee (1965–1967). Professor Grabda was a member of many scientific societies, including the Polish Zoological Society, and the Polish Parasitological Society. He was very active in the field of nature conservation, being a member of many institutions and societies, including the League of Nature Conservation (LOP). Professor Grabda was an active member of editorial boards of journals devoted to parasitology and zoology (*Acta Parasitologica*, *Wiadomości Parazytologiczne*, *Przegląd Parazytologiczny*). In 1970 Professor Grabda founded the scientific journal *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* (ACTA) devoted to ichthyology and fisheries science. This periodical, from the beginning, was published in English, which was quite unusual in socialist Poland at that time. Through the interlibrary exchange system, ACTA could reach fisheries research centers all over the world. In exchange, the library of the Agricultural University in Szczecin received copies of fisheries publications from other countries, which would otherwise have been impossible considering the lack of hard currency. Professor Eugeniusz Grabda worked as the editor-in-chief of ACTA almost until the last days of his life. He passed away on 12 May 1997 and was buried in the Central Cemetery in Szczecin. This short note is intended to give tribute to Professor Grabda on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his journal.