

IN MEMORY OF BACCIO BACCETTI

Baccio Baccetti, Editor-in-Chief of *Redia* since 2003, the centennial of publication of the journal, passed away on 18 December 2010. His death was a great loss for the entire Editorial Board of the journal and for the Italian scientific community.

His remarkable knowledge of the anatomy, physiology and biology of insects, acquired during his long career as a researcher and teacher, made him a valuable collaborator and diligent observer of new discoveries in entomology. He began to observe the behaviour of insects as a child and frequented the "Regia Stazione di Entomologia" as early as 10 years of age. At 21, he began to publish his first studies on the systematics of Orthoptera in *Redia* and at 23 was awarded his degree in Agrarian Sciences *cum laude*, with publication of his thesis. At only 25, he had already published 16 papers in this journal. At the time, these works represented the fundamental base of knowledge on the systematics and biology of Italian Orthoptera. Contemporaneously, he began to take an interest in the anatomy of other insects, and his studies carried out with the first transmission and scanning electron microscopes in the 1960s-'70s yielded knowledge widely used and confirmed by entomologists throughout the world. The eclecticism and scientific

validity of the man then became clear with his studies on the Malpighian tubules of many insect species and later on the ultrastructure of the sperm.

Known and appreciated by the whole scientific community as an excellent teacher, he was a member of the most important national and international academies of zoology, entomology and microscopy. Because of his fame in international entomological circles, he was entrusted by the international committee of the congress of entomology to organize the XX International Congress of Entomology in Florence in 1996.

With his intellectual abilities, he provided an important stimulus to the revival of *Redia* and, upon assuming the post of the journal's Editor-in-Chief, he assembled an international Editorial Board of specialists. Replacing him as Editor-in-Chief of *Redia* will not be an easy task, especially at a particularly difficult time for all scientific journals not part of large publishing groups. However, this must represent a stimulus to maintain and increasingly advance this journal founded by Antonio Berlese and published uninterruptedly for almost 110 years.

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