Professor Dr. F. Schiemer’s 65th birthday: a brief personal biography

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With 4 figures in the text

Abstract: On the occasion of his 65th birthday, the scientific and academic career of Professor Dr. Friedrich Schiemer is briefly reviewed in four parts: before his PhD-graduation at the University of Vienna; Assistant to the Zoological Institute, Limnological Department of the University of Vienna (1968–1993); Professor and Director of the Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology of the University of Vienna (1993–2004); family life. The biography includes bibliographic details of all his scientific publications.

Before PhD-graduation at the University of Vienna

Friedrich Schiemer (Fig. 1) was born during the 2nd World War, on the 23 January 1941 at Fischamend, Lower Austria, where young Schiemer, together with his sister Margarete, had a happy childhood in a rural environment. His parents owned a local inn and sent their son to a high school in Vienna.

Fischamend is situated next to the riverside forests of the Danube, downstream of Vienna, and Fritz was fascinated by these wonderful sites. He soon started to fish in the ponds for species such as *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* L., which he kept in a cucumber jar, and thus started to become interested in the “food of the fishes” – the micro-cosmos of that biotope. When Fritz was thirteen he got his first microscope, and called himself a “Tümler” (the German word for a person who is interested in the living world of a pond).

After successfully finishing high school in October 1959, he joined the University of Vienna to study Biology (Zoology and Botany). The University usually arranged field courses at the Biological Station in Lunz, Lower Austria, during the summer holidays. In June/July 1960, Professor W. Kühnelt organized a terrestrial ecology course there in which Fritz, together with, for example, Max Tilzer, took part and became acquainted with the area which partly determined his way of life thereafter. In addition to that terrestrial course, Fritz joined the 37th Course on Hydrobiology

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