

ANTONIO CAMPOY SÁNCHEZ-FORTÚN (1951-1981)

"Becoming a biologist is not just choosing a career. It is, rather, choosing a way of life". Antonio Campoy (Aguilas, Murcia, 1951 - Izaga, Navarra, 1981) thus immediately caught our full attention upon his introduction as our professor of Invertebrate Zoology for the '79 class at the University of Navarra. And, true to this, he left a lasting imprint unto us.

Campoy's short academic life not only spawned several scientific careers, but also helped effectively resurrect the research on Polychaetes in Spain that since Rioja's times had been stagnant. His sixteen papers span from 1974 to 1982 (with several posthumous), when the careers of such polychaetologists as Viéitez, Ibáñez, Núñez and San Martín, among others, started to bloom. They knew each other and their fruitful exchanges and collaborations set the new foundations of the now lively benthic and marine faunistics research in Spain.

One of the pillars of this foundation was, and still is, Campoy's monumental thesis on Errantia (even now I am still sending away copies), and his catalogue of the polychaete fauna of Spain. Within five years he added more than one hundred species to the known catalogue (a 20% increase). Upon this, later researchers have added a further 40% in 25 years; in all respects, the work he did has been continued ever since.

Characteristically, Campoy also took a keen interest in wider fields. His thirst for knowledge seemed unquenchable. He published faunistic papers on Mollusca and Nematoda, and was seminal in setting up the conference series on Iberian benthos studies that continues today. In this field, he was extremely committed to reaching out, having undergraduate and graduate students plunging into marine and benthic research: he sensed the need for fresh promises to get into "deep science", even at a time where it was quite a hardship to make a living out of this. Trying to reach a wider potential base, he also undertook translating, adapting and writing textbooks and manuals. Campoy's career developed at a time where "old" taxonomy work was in need of more efficient methods. Aware of new technologies being developed, Campoy recognised the fulcrum and set to develop methods that, in time, he forecasted would be in use for easing the research management. Together with his mentor, Jordana, he devised a numerical taxonomy system that, although superseded by more elaborate schemes, is still in use today in some computerized databases.

The influence of Antonio Campoy extended around him. He was an extremely congenial companion, and more than a teacher for his students. Stiff academia was not his natural environment, and he sought to teach by example more than any other thing. He truly believed that students are scientists in the making, and as scientists they are human beings first of all. He would never miss an opportunity to socialize: he was one of these teachers that are equally at ease with students by the blackboard or at the bistro. One notch above his students and colleagues was his family, to whom he was fully committed as a loving father and spouse. Naturally enough, his teaching spilled to his prime subjects: his own sons, Antonio and Miguel. His wife, Alicia, recalls their vacations by the seashore, joyfully playing to break *Dendropoma* masses in order to extract the worms inside.

Although his life came to an abrupt end in a field accident on February 5th, 1981, when the road yielded under the wheel of our car trapping him on its fall, his legacy continues to this day. Citations of his works are still commonplace; his family cherishes his memory, and many of his former students are now scientists because of him.

> ARTURO ARIÑO Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Navarra Pamplona, Spain