

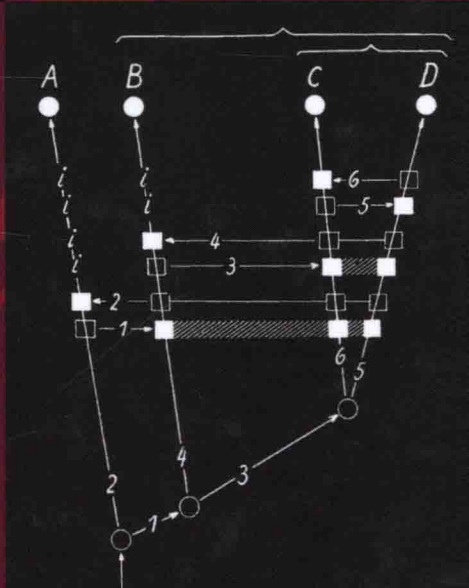


Michael Schmitt

From Taxonomy to Phylogenetics

– *Life and Work of*
Willi Hennig

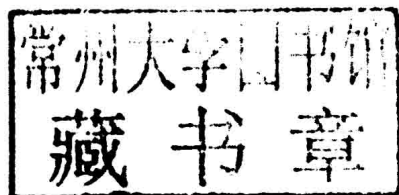
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From Taxonomy to Phylogenetics—Life and Work of Willi Hennig

By

Michael Schmitt



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2013

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ISBN 978-90-04-21928-1 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-21929-8 (e-book)

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Printed by Printforce, the Netherlands

From Taxonomy to Phylogenetics
Life and Work of Willi Hennig

For Wolfgang, Bernd, and Gerd Hennig

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The roots of this book lay in 2008, when Michiel Thijssen from Brill Publishers and I met during the 23rd International Congress of Entomology in Durban (South Africa). While having a chat, I mentioned that Willi Hennig's centenary will be in 2013. Michiel spontaneously suggested that Brill should publish an "authoritative" book on Willi Hennig on that occasion, and invited me to author this book. I had already published some smaller papers on Hennig, and thought I could translate (as most are in German) and combine them, and agreed. For these smaller papers, I used information by many people whom I acknowledged in the respective publications. I want to mention them generally here to emphasise that the present book bases at a considerable degree on their earlier contributions.

Michiel Thijssen, Sabine Steenbeek, and Tessel Jonquière from Brill Publishers always encouraged me, always considered my suggestions, never raised any difficulties for me. I am grateful for this easy co-operation.

Many people and institutions helped me to collect the information, hidden either in public or private archives, or in their memories. Most of all I thank Willi Hennig's three sons, Prof.Dr. Wolfgang Hennig (Kranenburg), Dr. Bernd Hennig (Freiburg im Breisgau), and Gerd Hennig (Tübingen) for providing documents, photographs, verbal information, and critique. Through their help, I could read, copy, and cite piles of up to now unknown documents. They scanned diaries, photographs, notes and whatever they found in their fathers bequest for me. Most of the biographic details given in this book would remain unseen to the public without their support. Moreover, they read and commented on several stages of the manuscript of the present book up to the final.

Prof. Dr. Willi Xylander (Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz) made available documents and photographs from the Willi Hennig-Archive, Görlitz, Ute Kaczinski (Archive of the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut—SDEI, Müncheberg) helped me with documents and photographs from the archive of the SDEI, Walter Pietrusziak (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft—DFG, Bonn) and Undine Beier (Bundesarchiv, Berlin) assisted generously in accessing Willi Hennig's dossier at the DFG, Sabine Strickrodt (Institut für Arbeit und Gesundheit der Deutschen Gesetzlichen Unfallversicherung, Dresden) and Regina Malek (Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Dresden) made possible to use Fig. 16, from

Prof. Dr. Rolf Kohring (Berlin) I received a photograph of and literature on and by W.G. Kühne. Professor Helmut van Emden (Reading, UK) provided many details of the biography of his father, Fritz van Emden, and checked parts of my manuscript, Prof.Dr. Götz Aly (Berlin) gave many valuable hints regarding my enquiries on information from Germany's NS-era. Maxene Graze (Portland, Oregon, USA) and Gabriele Uhl (Greifswald) critically read the manuscript and improved content and English.

I cordially thank all these and the countless others who helped me.

When I read in the "acknowledgments" sections of other books that the authors gave the names of their family members and thanked them, I often thought that there were an exhibitionistic moment in it. Now, after completing this manuscript, I understand the motives of those colleagues who thanked their family in detail. My wife and our two daughters tolerated my absence from family life the more the longer the writing took, and they not just tolerated it, they made it possible through their constant support and love. Gabriele, Veronika, and Helene—I owe you much more than some words in a book.

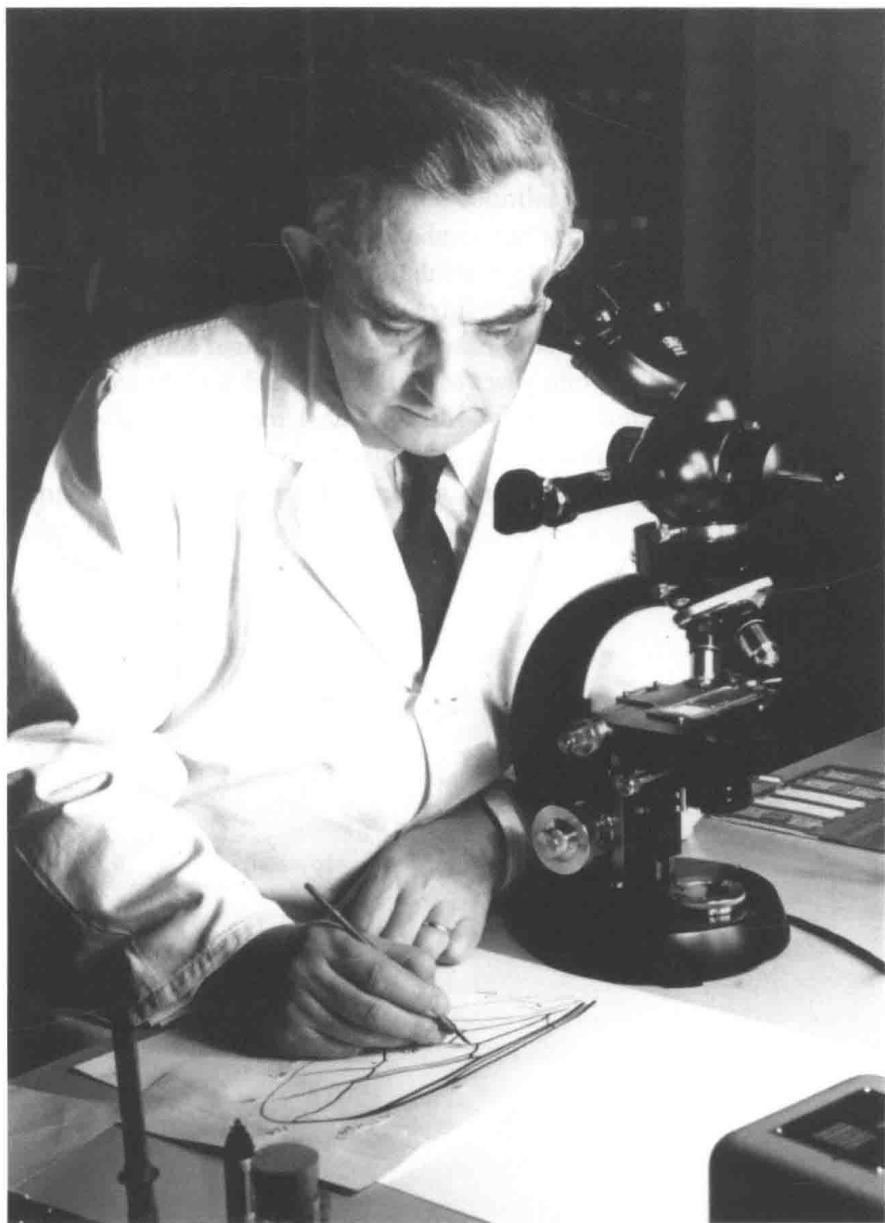


Fig. 1. Willi Hennig in February, 1968. Photo taken by "Photostudio Rössle, Ludwigsburg", the holder of the copyright could not be ascertained.

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