

EDITORIAL

## Anita Lange – A veteran of limnology



Anita Lange is known to many limnologists, even though she contributed only indirectly to filling publication lists. From 1982 to 2005 she was Editorial Assistant of the journal *Limnologia* and between 1984 and 1997 was additionally responsible for the *Archive for Protist Research (Archiv für Protistenkunde)*. This year Anita Lange ended her editorial support for *Limnologia*, and we would like to take this as an opportunity to thank her for her outstanding editorial work.

She carried out her editorial activities on a voluntary basis in addition to her fully occupying work – firstly in the Department for Limnology of the Central Institute for Medicine and Experimental Therapy of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic, and later in the Limnology group at the Institute for Ecology of the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena.

We have estimated that she edited around 3000 manuscripts and book reviews, thus making a great contribution to the correctness of the manuscripts in both journals mentioned above. Even very good manuscripts may contain small, insidious errors – misspellings, slight inconsistencies between the chapters, imperfect citations, omissions in the figures, for instance

– which sometimes escape the editors. Anita Lange did not miss them. She was an extremely critical and conscientious, editor. Her correspondence with the authors made her known the world over. Her hard work and reliability made an impact on the quality of the published papers.

In Anita Lange we honour somebody in the limnological community who has worked in the background. She is among those people whose great importance is sadly too often overlooked. However Anita Lange has already received one accolade to her editorial merits from the protozoologist Wilhelm Foissner (of Salzburg University, Austria). He named a new sort of ciliate after her: *Hackenbergia langae* Foissner, 1997.

It remains to be said that the qualities mentioned above were shown to great advantage also in her work at the institutes where she was employed. She is a much-loved colleague, a “good soul”, a veteran (or as she says of herself, “das alte Eisen”) of limnology. Her reliability is of inestimable value for the scientific and collaborative life of an institute. She is still part of the working group for limnology in Jena, but she hopes to be able to increasingly devote her new-found free time to her husband and small grandson Niklas.

Just as she required punctuality and reliability from authors and reviewers with regard to the manuscripts they were working on, to the reviews and to sending back the proofs, she also set herself strict standards. It was always important to her that the date for returning the manuscript to the publishers was strictly adhered to, so that the volumes always appeared punctually. All galley proofs sent back by the authors were checked over again by her, which often proved to have been necessary. In this way she had a large share in the exceptionally good cooperation between the editors and publishing house.

Thank you for being such a good colleague!

Heike Zimmermann-Timm, Wilfried Schönborn,  
Rainer Koschel