

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Professor Božidar P. M. Ćurčić, whose name is inseparable from teaching and research in the fields of arachnology, developmental biology, evolutionary biology, and biospeleology in Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Professor Ćurčić's greatest contribution to the advancement of zoology is his ability to select and properly guide young students with an interest in the biological sciences. His readiness to help gifted students in all phases of their growth has produced an outstanding group of qualified specialists employing causal approaches in their biological studies.

At the same time, Professor Ćurčić's original work has been much appreciated abroad, and the Belgrade schools of developmental and evolutionary biology have in decades past actively cooperated with numerous highly rated specialist and scientific centers in the USA, Russia, Japan, and most European countries.

The present monograph contains a collection of papers published in recognition of Professor Ćurčić's almost four decades of scientific research and teaching activity. The papers stem from the deep appreciation and friendship of his former students, some now his colleagues, on whom his influence had a strong positive impact. They also represent a small token of gratitude on the part of a group of scientists all over the world to their teacher or colleague, a man who has devoted his entire working life to the teaching of biology and advancement of arachnology, biospeleology, and zoology in general.

Slobodan E. Makarov

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