

Preface

During a beer reception at one of the last French Diatomist Meetings, we jokingly conceived the plan to compile a Festschrift for Luc Ector's 65th birthday. We never could imagine that 3 years later, we would have to invite a lot of his friends and colleagues to publish a paper in his Memorial volume. We are very happy and satisfied that so many positively responded our invitation. We would like to thank therefore all contributors and reviewers for their meticulous work that shaped this Memorial volume.

This volume honours Luc Ector as a diatom scientist with 17 contributions, discussing one of Luc's favorite passions, diatom research. Luc was an inspiring mentor motivating many young (and not so young) colleagues worldwide. This is reflected in the subject of many contributions in this volume. A new genus, *Luectorea* gen. nov. (Tudesque et al.), and numerous new species such as *Pinnularia ectorii* sp. nov. (Potapova et al.) and *Rimoneis ectorii* sp. nov. (Marquardt et al.), are named named after him.

This Memorial volume includes important revisions and additions to our current knowledge of several freshwater diatom genera (e.g. Abarca et al.). Luc was a keen diatom taxonomist and ecologist who fully understood the value and importance of historic diatom material as a tool for our modern understanding of diatom species. Several contributions in this Memorial volume such as those on *Stauroneis acuta* (Wadmare et al.), *Brachysira vitrea* (Van de Vijver et al.) of *Frustulia saxonica* (Jüttner et al.), start with the analysis of historic type material to disentangle difficult and confusing complexes.

Luc's enthusiasm, kindness and immense diatom knowledge will never be forgotten, and this Memorial volume will contribute to his legacy and as such will represent a valuable piece of work for future generations of diatomists.

Carlos, Ingrid and Bart