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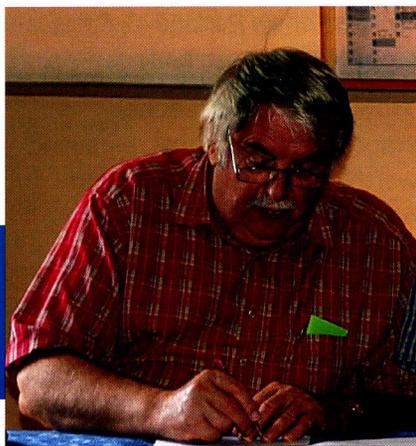
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IN MEMORIAM: DR. H. C. JOSEF BOGNER

by Christel Kasselmann
Photo by the Author



Dr. h. c. Josef Bogner
29. 01. 1939 – 23. 04. 2020

Josef Bogner was not only an authority within the subject of the Araceae, but he was also a very knowledgeable and a great friend to the aquatic plant hobby. In the German magazine "Aqua Planta" Josef Bogner has published countless articles of his own, and also many together with other authors. In 35 years he not only edited 140 issues of *Aqua Planta* with almost 1000 articles, but he also translated many articles from English into German. His famous name will be remembered by millions of aquarists, because *Cryptocoryne bogneri* Rataj, *C. ciliata* (Roxb.) Schott var. *bogneri* N. Jacobsen, *Aponogeton bogneri* H.W.E. van Bruggen, *Lagenandra bogneri* de Wit and *Bucephalandra bogneri* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce bear his name. Water and swamp plants have also been described by him, such as *Cryptocoryne sivadasanii* Bogner, *Crinum calamistratum*

Bogner & Heine, *Lagenandra gomezii* (Schott) Bogner & N. Jacobsen, *Schismatoglossis roseospatha* Bogner, *Cryptocoryne hudaroi* Bogner & N. Jacobsen and *Aponogeton eggertii* Bogner & H. Bruggen.

From an aquaristic point of view, he was of course particularly interested in the genera and species of the family Araceae—among them the genera *Cryptocoryne*, but also *Lagenandra* and *Bucephalandra* fascinated him. In this way, a close cooperation was established between all friends of the genus *Cryptocoryne*. Josef Bogner did not miss an opportunity to meet his friends of the European *Cryptocoryne* Society in various European countries every year in recent years, despite severe health problems, even though the trips were difficult for him.

Josef Bogner's knowledge of tropical aquarium and aquatic

plants was enormously diverse. For example, there was a long-standing friendship between him and Harry W. E. van Bruggen, who revised the genus *Aponogeton*.

From his travels in the tropics, Josef Bogner always collected aquatic and marsh plants: in Sri Lanka he found *Cryptocoryne bogneri* Rataj and *Lagenandra bogneri* De Wit, which were named in his honour. But he also brought many rare aquatic plants, such as *Heteranthera gardneri* (Hook.f.) M. Pellegrini with him for the first time for aquarium culture.

Josef Bogner enriched and shaped my life in many ways for more than 40 years. I was fascinated by his incredible biological and botanical

knowledge and his phenomenal memory. There was not a week in our long friendship in which we did not speak on the phone at least once. I am infinitely grateful to him for the intensive professional and friendly relationship that was the basis of my own studies. Our joint description of *Aponogeton gottlebei* Kasselmann & Bogner bears witness to our fruitful cooperation and will always remind me of my friend Josef Bogner.

With Josef Bogner's passing, not only science loses a famous and dedicated botanist of our time, but also the aquarists lose a humble and great man who was enthusiastic about aquatic plants.

Christel Kasselmann, Germany

▼ *Joseph Bogner and Niels Jacobsen in front of the Thousand-Year Rose in Hildesheim, Germany in 1986. Photo Courtesy of Niels Jacobsen.*

