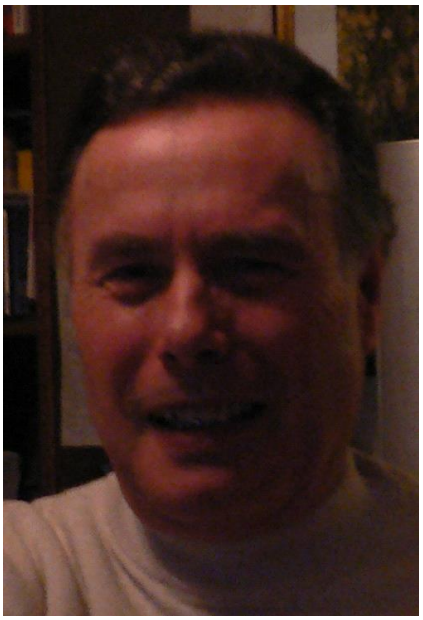
Zurück zur internetlibrary.html

Curriculum Vitae of Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig

Some Data on Education and Profession

(Lebenslauf – einige Daten zum Thema Ausbildung und Beruf)

7 May 2010, 22 December 2010, Last Update/Supplement 10 August 2016



Left: Photograph (unretouched) 16 May 2010 by Sabine ("Biene") Lönnig.
For further photos see http://www.weloennig.de/internetlibrary.html (1997) and 2003 and 29. 9. 2007 (also unretouched)

1. Born 8 March 1943 in Bad Wildungen, Germany, learned to walk in Vienna, grew up in Berlin-West.

2. General certificate of education/school-leaving exam and university entrance qualification (Abitur): 5 March 1965. (School was interrupted at the age of 15 for 3 years to learn a trade, after which I returned to school.)

3. Study of BIOLOGY (botany, zoology, genetics, paleontology) (constituting the MAIN SUBJECT(s) of my studies) and (second subject) English language and literature ("Anglistik") and (third subject(s)) philosophy and education: 1965 to 1971 (Universities at Berlin, Mainz and Frankfurt).

Examinations: MSc (Erstes wissenschaftliches Staatsexamen) in biology and other subjects in Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin):

Topic of what appears to be equivalent to a MSc thesis in the USA and England: *Origin and evolution of the plant kingdom as mirrored by* [im Spiegel] *older and modern views – critical reflections selecting suitable instances* (in German: 77 pp. of scientific arguments against neo-Darwinism, 55 pp. facts against different theories of macro-evolution as well as many data and facts ***for an intelligent origin of the higher systematic categories*** [plus contents, introduction and references altogether 141 pp]; referee Prof. Dr. Theo Eckardt, Director in Chief (leitender Direktor) of the world-renowned *Botanical Garden und Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem* and full Professor at the Free University of Berlin). Reports/certificates/grades for "Die erste (wissenschaftliche) Staatsprüfung", Wissenschaftliches Landesprüfungsamt Berlin:

(a) 3 July 1970: Philosophy and education (Philosophicum): "sehr gut" ("very good"/"excellent", A)
(b) 22 November 1971: BIOLOGY: "sehr gut" ("very good"/"excellent", A)
English: "befriedigend" ("satisfactory"/"fair")
(My input of time and energy to learn Old and Middle English, interesting as it can be, was limited.)

4. Student teacher (studies to become a high school teacher for BIOLOGY and English,

"Referendar"). Topic of thesis: *Paleontology and evolution – a contribution to develop critical thinking capabilities by examining a biological problem in [a series of] lessons in the 11th class* [students 17 years old; in German, again 141 pp.]. Report/certificate/grade for "Die zweite Staatsprüfung für das Amt des Studienrats" (also in Berlin) (this is something akin to a MEd degree):

4 February 1974: "gut bestanden" ("good")

5. Subsequently BIOLOGY and English teacher at a high school/grammar school (Gymnasium) in Stuttgart from 1974 to 1978. Report/certificate from the school: "…die Abitursergebnisse, die er in Biologie erzielte, waren überdurchschnittlich gut. … Der von ihm oft in die Debatte geworfene trockene Humor wirkte stets belebend."

6. 1978 und 1979: PhD studies and writing of PhD thesis at the Institute of GENETICS (at that time: plant genetics), University of Bonn (PhD corresponding to the German Dr. rer. nat., that is "Doktor der Naturwissenschaften").

7. Report/certificate/grades for PhD (Dr. rer. nat.) dissertation and oral examinations in genetics (referees Profs W. Gottschalk and H. P. Müller) and paleontology (Profs H.-J. Schweitzer and H. K. Erben):

21 Dezember 1979: Topic of dissertation: *Heterosis bei Pisum sativum* [in German, 147 pp.]:
"Gut" ("good")[a], oral examinations: "Sehr gut" ("very good"/"excellent", A).
Paleontology: Sehr gut ("very good"/"excellent", A)

8. Subsequently 5 years POSTDOC ("Wissenschaftlicher Assistent") at the same Institute, the Institute of Genetics in Bonn (up to and including January 1985). Tasks (among others): Teaching genetics for biology and medical students: internships and also seminars on the history of biology and human genetics.

9. From February 1985 to 1988 POSTDOC at Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung, MPIZ) in the department of *Molecular Plant Genetics* (Director: Prof. Heinz Saedler). From 1988 to 1992 scientist with permanent contract ("Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter" mit unbefristetem Vertrag) at the same institute and department.

10. From 1992 to 2008: (Status of) GROUP LEADER and SENIOR SCIENTIST at this institute (MPIZ) and department. Altogether more than 2 million plants evaluated: mutation genetics and transposon tagging and trapping (in experimental fields and greenhouses). Plant species investigated: *Pisum sativum*, *Antirrhinum majus*, *Misopates orontium*, *Physalis pubescens*, ssp. *floridana*. Subsequently some further work with *Misopate*s-mutants (as a guest scientist up to December 2010); growing interest in the origin of carnivorous plants (an already long-standing concern), starting an (experimental) pilot project with *Utricularia multifida* (*Polypompholyx*).

11. Peer reviewer/referee for several papers published in scientific journals like *The Plant Cell*, *Molecular and General Genetics* (now *Molecular Genetics and Genomics*), *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* (TAG) and others. Beginning with April 2010, I belong to the editorial board of the brand new peer-reviewed science journal *Bio-Complexity*.

12. For a list of publications, see http://www.weloennig.de/literatur1a.html. Most important scientific/genetic contribution to evolutionary questions on the basis of empirical results and investigations is perhaps *The Law of Recurrent Variation* (revealing the limits of Darwinian and other ideas on evolution and of evolution itself).

[a] I was informed that – because the chapter *Heterosis and Evolution* (pp. 112-124) contained several factual biological arguments against neo-Darwinism – the dissertation was degraded from "very good" to "good". However, no rational reasons were given for this decision. A post-doc from the same institute, who later became a professor of *Plant Molecular Genetics* at a German university, called my behavior in the face of this dogmatism acknowledgingly "very bold" ("sehr mutig").

13. Tasks for the Institute: Organization of the main seminar for the (entire) MPIZ ("Wednesday Seminar", inviting scientific speakers from around the world in cooperation with the board of directors and group leaders) for two years[1]. Also: the seminar schedules for the department of *Molecular Plant Genetics* (Heinz Saedler) from 1992-2008. Member of the Arbeitsschutzausschuss (concerning health and safety protection in the labs, greenhouses and experimental fields) for about ten years. For altogether some 25 years (including the time in Bonn) "Beisitzer" (assessor, committee member, who takes or keeps the minutes down and makes suggestions to asses the candidate) in almost 100 diploma and PhD examinations. In Bonn I once asked Prof. Müller: 'Why are you always choosing me to be the "Beisitzer" (assessor)'? His answer: 'You have such a reassuring (calming down) effect under these circumstances.'

14. Talks/Seminars given on the *Origin of Species – Evolution and Intelligent Design* – at the Universities of Berlin (FU), Tübingen, Frankfurt[2], Cologne (also MPIZ), Salzburg, Witten/Herdecke, Kassel (also Akademie Invitare), as well as taking part in a panel discussion on related topics in Stuttgart 2009 (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart (SMNS), Schloss Rosenstein and Am Löwentor; see http://www.weloennig.de/Podiumsdiskussion.pdf). Moreover, I was also invited to give talks at several high schools (Gymnasien) in the Bonn/Cologne area.

15. Magazine interviews concerning *Darwinism and intelligent design*: *Nature* (regarding website: http://www.weloennig.de/Spiegel-Artikel.html), Der Spiegel[3], Die Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), Factum, Chrismon, Awake![4], see also the booklet/brochure *Was Life Created*? of 2010. – Radio interviews (also on Mendel in one case): Deutsche Welle (DW Radio, text see: http://www.weloennig.de/DeutscheWelle.html), Südwestfunk, WDR (Westdeutscher Rundfunk), Bayerischer Rundfunk, ORF (Österreichischer Rundfunk).

Perhaps also to be mentioned: Several interviews (and advice, mostly/generelly but, of course, not always accepted) for film projects on the origin of species with motion picture producer/filmmaker Fritz Poppenberg (Drei Linden Filmproduktion, Berlin): (1) Is the Bible right after all? (Shown on public TV by *Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg*, RBB), (2) God Doesn't Play Dice, (3) Der Fall des Affenmenschen. – Strongly involved in the final versions of the German translations for the following DVDs (1) Unlocking the Mystery of Life, (2) The Privileged Planet, (3) Darwin's Dilemma and (4) Ben Stein's *Expelled – No Intelligence Allowed*.

16. Retired April 2008 (in Germany you have to retire at the age of 65, which in my case was completed on 8 March 2008). From April 2008 to December 2010, I have been a guest scientist at the MPIZ still evaluating several thousand *Misopates* plants and starting some experimental investigations (pilot project) on *Utricularia multifida* (*Polypompholyx*) and at home with *Pinguicula* spec. which I hope can to be continued at my home and garden.

---

[1] This time period was the custom in the 1990s for those getting this assignment.

[2] On "Goethe, Sex and Flower Genes" (Contribution on problems of the evolutionary interpretation of the flower organs): http://www.weloennig.de/Goeasy.html.

[3] More exactly in this case: On Thursday 10 April 2003 in the afternoon Mr. Jörg Blech, science correspondent for *Der Spiegel* magazine, first couldn't reach me because I was working on my plants in a greenhouse without a telephone line. He interviewed Prof. Heinz Saedler on my status as a geneticist at the institute ("respected geneticist" http://www.weloennig.de/Spiegel-Artikel.html) and what he thought of my views on the origin of species. He also spoke with Dr. Susanne Benner (at that time head of PR for the MPIZ, now head of communications for BASF) and asked her for a photo of me (which she subsequently made in that greenhouse). The same day, we (that is Heinz Saedler and me) called Mr. Blech back from my office and he was so kind to read (and later send) us the text he had written for publication.

[4] Average printing in 2006: 32 412 000 in 81 languages (Special Issue *Is there a Creator?* four times reprinted, more than 48 million copies).

UPDATE/Supplement 10 August 2016

17. Some further interviews: (a) *Diplomacy Post* 22 March 2014. (b) Short interviews for two radio broadcasts of the German radio station *Bayern 2* (2012 and 2016).

18. Involved in the translation (English into German) of the following *Illustra Media* films:
(a) Metamorphosis: The Beauty and Design of Butterflies (German: Die geheimnisvolle Schönheit der Schmetterlinge; 2012)
(b) Flight: The Genius of Birds (German: Geschöpfe des Himmels; 2013)
(c) Living Waters: Intelligent Design in the Oceans of the Earth (German: Intelligent Design in den Ozeanen; 2015).

Alle deutschsprachigen Titel bei http://www.dreilindenfilm.de/index.php

19. Series of Podcasts on the origin of Giraffes, Dogs and Carnivorous Plants, also on Mutation Breeding, Mendel, as well as Randomness in Natural Selection (for the links to all the 14 Poadcasts see http://www.weloennig.de/internetlibrary.html

Several posts at ENV. See http://www.evolutionnews.org/ (check: "Lönnig" and "natural selection")

20. Four books:

(a) "Die Affäre Max Planck", die es nie gegeben hat. Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster (zweite verbesserte Auflage 2011)

(b) Die Evolution der karnivoren Pflanzen: Was die Selektion nicht leisten kann: Das Beispiel *Utricularia* (Wasserschlauch). Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster (2011, dritte verbesserte Auflage 2012)

(c) Die Evolution der Langhalsgiraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis* L.): Was wissen wir tatsächlich? Testfall für Gradualismus, Makromutationen und intelligentes Design. Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster (2012)

And the English Edition: The Evolution of the Long-Necked Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis* L.) What do we really know?: Testing the Theories of Gradualism, Macromutation, and Intelligent Design. Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster (2011)

(d) Unser Haushund: Eine Spitzmaus im Wolfspelz?: Oder beweisen die Hunderassen, dass der Mensch von Bakterien abstammt? Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster (2014)

21. Peer-reviewed articles on transposable elements (2015) and carnivorous plants (2016) (see http://www.weloennig.de/literatur1a.html 106. and 107.) and discussion on the limits of natural selection http://www.weloennig.de/internetlibrary.html (see 28 and 31 July 2016) and also some additional topics (see again the link just quoted).

SOME PERSONAL DATA

Marital Status: married since 1972, one daughter, born 1980.
Interests: Playing the guitar, writing poems, singing them. Every now and then learning some French and Spanish (state of knowledge: sufficient to analyse scientific literature in these languages). Last not least: Studying the Bible almost daily (often including biblical archaeology and ancient history as well as comparative religion; some 400 public talks during the last 35 years on related topics, especially the origin of life and man; see Revelation 4:11).

POSTSCRIPT

So far "*Some Data on [my] Education and Profession*". The data mentioned may perhaps leave the impression of an almost permanent series of successes and victories. However,

king Solomon appropiately said already some 3,000 years ago: "*For in the abundance of wisdom there is an abundance of vexation so that he who increases knowledge increases pain*." And in his prayer to Jehovah for help for "*any man* or of all your people Israel": "…because they know each one the plague of his own heart" (or "*because they know each one his own plague and his own pain*"). And yet, Solomon also wrote: "*Happy is the man that has found wisdom, and the man that gets discernment,*…"

Zurück zur internetlibrary.html