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Dr Donald H. Colless, in Memoriam

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The life, work and success of Dr Donald H. Colless are treated in the preceding articles by people close to him and competent to do it.

My desire is to briefly describe how this most successful scientist, one of the most remarkable people I have met, treated, inspired, encouraged and motivated an immigrant amateur entomologist who had just arrived in Australia. I was interested in continuing my taxonomic work on the Australian Tipulidae (Diptera) and various aquatic insect taxa, expanding from my previous studies on the European fauna.

I was first introduced to Don in 1975 when, between night shifts at my job in the chemical industry, I would often travel from Sydney to CSIRO Entomology to discuss dragonfly taxonomy with Tony Watson. Whenever Don and I met, he took the time not only to give me his best handshake but also, (after some friendly and usually funny chat) to let me know about his interesting work, make available reprints of his own and other publications, and to discuss what I was doing. Subsequently he supported me in whichever way he could, making available the wonderful Australian Diptera in the CSIRO Collection, much of which he had collected himself. Don was open and generous to me, and he would have treated others in a similar way, making him a remarkable mentor. I always shall be grateful for his generosity and friendship.

Having been in the position to show at least some appreciation to Don - while he was still alive - by dedicating to him a genus and nine species of three families in two orders of insects, I decided to farewell him in this Gedenkschrift not by adding another *collessi* spec. nov., but just to list the one genus and nine species I have already named in his honour. They are:

Plecoptera, Gripopterygidae:

Leptoperla collessi Theischinger 1981; Aquatic Ins., 3(1): 110.

Diptera, Thaumaleidae:

Niphtha collessi Theischinger 1986; Rec. Aust. Mus. 38: 314.

Diptera, Tipulidae:

Collessophila Theischinger 1994; Stapfia 26: 150.

Type species: *Collessophila chookachooka* Theischinger 1994 by monotypy.

Amphineurus (*Amphineurus*) *collessi* Theischinger 1994; Stapfia 35: 169.

Austrolimnophila (*Austrolimnophila*) *collessiana* Theischinger 1996; Stapfia 44: 26.

Dolichozeza (*Dolichozeza*) *collessi* Theischinger 1993; Linzer biol. Beitr. 25(2): 881.

Epiphragma (*Epiphragma*) *collessi* Theischinger 1996; Stapfia 44: 37.

Gynoplistia (*Gynoplistia*) *collessi* Theischinger 1994; Stapfia 36: 6.

Idiocera (*Idiocera*) *collessi* Theischinger 1994; Stapfia 36: 216.

Molophilus (*Lyriomolophilus*) *collessi* Theischinger 1988; Stapfia 17: 177;

(described as *Molophilus* (*Molophilus*) *collessi*).

Having found out about Don's death after his funeral, I wish to pay my respect and show my gratitude not with a bunch of flowers but with a bunch of *Dapanoptera* (Tipulidae) wings from species he collected (see overleaf). The members of this genus have aptly been referred to as the Birds of Paradise of the tipulid world by the family's greatest student and Don's colleague, Charles Alexander.