

John Clayton Clamp (1949–2018)



John Clayton Clamp

The outstanding ciliatologist, Doctor John Clayton Clamp, passed away on February 6, 2018.

John was born on August 5, 1949 in Nuremberg (Germany), in the family of a master sergeant of the U.S. Army. At the age of about one year old, John with his family returned to Ft. Myer, Virginia, USA. In connection with the military service of his father, he started education in the army primary school at the NATO military base in France. After France, he lived at the army base near Colorado Springs. He graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1966, and received his B.S. in Biology (1970) at the Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and M.S. (1972) – at the North Carolina State University.

He started a doctoral program in Protozoology at the Department of Zoology, North Carolina State University, where he was a Teaching Assistant, and later continued as a Visiting Lecturer at the Biology Department of the North Carolina Central University. In addition, he was a Summer Intern

at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History and an Associate Curator of the collection of Invertebrates. His Ph.D. thesis focused on Lagenophrys (Ciliophora, Peritrichia) species, and this was the start of a long series of the new species descriptions. After receiving his Ph.D. degree (1984) at the same university, John obtained a faculty position at the North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where he continued teaching and researching, often visiting and also kindly welcoming colleagues and students from different universities of the world.

In the beginning, Dr. Clamp worked on ciliate species taxonomy, and later his main research interest was concentrated on phylogenetic relationships and ecology of different groups of ciliates, particularly eritrichs and apostome ciliates living as symbionts on crustaceans. John Clamp is the author (or co-author) of about 60 scientific articles and 2 book chapters on the topic.

Perhaps one of John's major achievements was establishment of the International Research Coordination Network for Biodiversity of Ciliates (IRCN-BC). This is a global group of researchers from the USA, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, India, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico and Brazil, which continues to work successfully nowadays.

According to John's own words, he was very fond of traveling and his biggest interests were science, history and contemplation of nature.

Dr. Clamp was a bright personality; he was enthusiastic and kind person, who always promoted the idea of working in cooperation, together with a big research group. When colleagues handled any questions or requests, he was always able to find the appropriate words to solve any problems concerning their investigations.

With the demise of John Clamp, we lost not only a prominent scientist, but also a very good friend and excellent colleague.

Rosaura Mayén-Estrada. Mexico City, Mexico
Igor V. Dovgal. Sevastopol, Russia