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This special volume of *Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey* is dedicated to the late Dr. Michel Brancucci (9 September 1950 – 18 October 2012).

In Memoriam

Dr. Michel Brancucci

9 September 1950 – 18 October 2012

In the light of recent discoveries of spectacular new species in Laos, even among groups as thoroughly known as the birds and larger mammals, it requires only little effort to imagine the wealth of unknown invertebrate taxa in this country. Starting in 2003, Michel Brancucci contributed fundamentally to many of the new findings among the beetle diversity of Laos, a country that had hardly been entomologically explored.

While a number of publications arising out of Michel's entomological surveys in Laos are scattered through earlier volumes of this journal as well as in the wider entomological literature, the present volume is exclusively devoted to papers generated at least partially by Michel's projects. Preparation of the Laos material collected within the framework of these projects continues and more will become available to taxonomists in the near future. Another special volume of this journal will be devoted to publishing these further results; funds for 2014/2015 have already been allocated for this purpose. The next volume will also include contributions from friends and colleagues on Michel's background, his work and his activities.

Michel became an editor of this journal in 1980, and took on the responsibility of executive editor in 1981, thereby lending his own shape to it for more than thirty years. He was particularly looking forward to publishing this volume, as results of his Laos projects were finally to be made available in a focused manner. He worked towards this aim until the very last day of his life. Here, we attempt to fulfill Michel's ambition and maintain his high standards in a special volume of *Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey*. It seems to be the least we can do to keep alive the memory of a close and highly respected colleague and friend.

*The Editors
Pro Entomologia, Basel*