

Scandinavian entomologists I – Per Benander

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A short biography of Per Benander (1885–1976) is given together with a complete bibliography of his entomological papers. He described 22 new species of Lepidoptera, of which 11 species still are valid. A list of the species and the synonymy is presented.

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Per Benander (1885–1976) spent his entire life in Skåne /Scania/, the southernmost province of Sweden, where he earned his living as a schoolteacher. Without any university training, he was nevertheless able to develop his general interest in natural history to such a high standard that the University of Lund appointed him a doctor of honour (Ph. D., h.c.) in 1947. Starting with Lepidoptera in general he soon turned to the Microlepidoptera, a group in which he became the foremost authority in Scandinavia.

At an age of 70 he decided to enter a quite new field in which his knowledge of botany and hatching technique continuously could be made use of: the study of Tenthredinid Wasps, especially mining forms.

Benander was a very modest person and he detested public attention. At the same time he was most sociable, a good judge of human nature, and in the company of friends his sense of humour flourished. In every situation he saw the bright side. He used to say: I have never regretted anything that has happened in the past, and I have never felt anxious about anything that might happen in the future. He was a happy man.

Bibliography

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Collections: Benander's entire collection including all the types was donated to the Entomological Museum of Lund University after his death.

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