

### Third Presentation of the Niko Tinbergen-Förderpreis

Recognizing the importance of young talents for the reputation and development of present and future ethology, the Board of the Ethologische Gesellschaft e.V. (= Ethological Society of German speaking countries) introduced various measures to promote promising scientists. Most prestigious among these measures is the award of the *Niko Tinbergen-Förderpreis*, a prize consisting of a certificate and a cheque for DM 2,500. The prize was initiated in 1987 by the former president of the society, Prof. Dr. E. CURIO (Bochum), patroned by the late Prof. Dr. NIKO TINBERGEN, who was an honorary member of the society, and generously donated by Paul Parey, the publishers of this journal. The prize is awarded biennially to gifted scientists under the age of 35 for an outstanding single scientific publication in the field of animal behaviour. Names of candidates must be submitted to the Board, but selection of the prizewinning study is carried out by an international jury of six people, including Dr. R. GEORGI representing the donor. Further details about the statutes can be found in "Mitteilungsblatt" No. 26 (1990) of the Ethologische Gesellschaft.

The first two prizes went to Dr. C. TEN CATE (Groningen, now Leiden; 1988) and to Dr. T. BAKKER (Leiden, now Bern; 1990). Details about these awards have been published in ETHOLOGY 79, 342—343 (1988) and ETHOLOGY 87, 165—166 (1991), respectively. During the 13th Ethological Meeting of the society in Prague, the prize was awarded to Dr. ANNE-KATRIN EGGERT (Bielefeld, now Illinois State University at Normal, USA) for her study on "Alternative Male Mate-finding Tactics in Burying Beetles" (Behavioral Ecology 3, 243—254, 1992). During the ceremony, which took place on September 5th, the President of the Gesellschaft briefly recalled the aim and the history of the award. He then thanked Prof. CURIO for initiating, and Paul Parey Scientific Publishers for donating the prize. He also praised the jury for their conscientious work in selecting a winner from several excellent papers. In order to recognize the performance of the jury, the President "violated" the regulations of the statutes which state that he himself should present the prize to the winner. He left the honor to Prof. Dr. H. KUMMER (Zürich), member of the jury, who also gave the following brief laudation:

"ANNE-KATRIN EGGERT received her training at the University of Bielefeld. Both, her MSc- and her PhD-thesis were carried out under the supervision of Prof. Dr. J. P. MÜLLER, at that time scientific assistant in the Department of Evolutionary Biology (Prof. Dr. K. P. SAUER). The subject of both theses were various aspects of and the role of pheromones in mating strategies of the burying beetle *Necrophorus vespilloides*. Her PhD-work was supported through a grant from the "Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes" which is only given to very talented students.

After graduation in June 1990, A.-K. EGGERT received a postdoctoral grant from the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (German Science Foundation) which allowed her to continue and extend her studies in various places. First, she spent five months at the University of Freiburg in the Department of Prof. Dr. K. PESCHKE where she tried to isolate the male pheromone of *N. vespilloides*. Thereafter, she moved to Illinois State University where — with additional NSF money for a project of Prof. Dr. S. K. SAKALUK — she studied sperm competition, female choice and competition between sexes in crickets and burying beetles. From Januar to October 1993 she will work as a postdoc with Prof. Dr. R. THORNHILL (Albuquerque).

The Niko Tinbergen-Förderpreis is awarded to Dr. ANNE-KATRIN EGGERT for her study of alternative male mate-finding tactics in burying beetles (see above). She was able to demonstrate the ecological conditions for and the fitness consequences of two different mate-finding tactics: males can (1) search for carcasses that serve as oviposition sites or (2) attract mates via pheromone emission. Although usually carcass searching results in higher fitness than attracting, pheromone emission may be favoured when carcass availability is low. The question, why females mate with males without a carcass is answered in two ways: (1) females probably can distinguish between males with and without a carcass only after physical contact; (2) fresh sperm permits the female to rear offspring if they find a carcass without a conspecific male. The jury was particularly impressed by the elegant way in which Dr. EGGERT combined observations and experiments in the field with intelligently devised experiments in the laboratory."

Following this laudation, Dr. EGGERT presented her prizewinning work in a 30-minute talk in which she also demonstrated that her qualities as a researcher are closely matched by her abilities in lecturing.

U. REYER

— President of the Ethologische Gesellschaft —