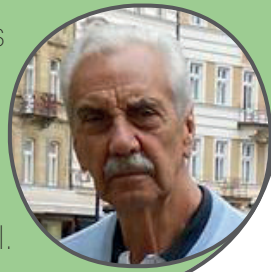




This article is part of the special series offered by the Brazilian Crustacean Society in honor to **Nilton José Hebling** in recognition of his dedication and contributions to the development of carcinology in Brazil.



SHORT COMMUNICATION

Nilton Hebling's career and contribution to carcinology

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ABSTRACT

This is a brief comment on Nilton Hebling's career and contribution to carcinology. Our intention is to show to next generation of carcinologists some insights of his professional life, and to acknowledge his great attitude while teaching and mentoring many Brazilian carcinologists.

KEY WORDS

Scientific legacy, larval development, decapod, morphology.

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Nilton José Hebling was born in Corumbataí, São Paulo, Brazil on November 29, 1940. He received his undergraduate degree in Natural History (1963) from "Faculdade de Filosofia Ciências e Letras de Rio Claro", São Paulo, nowadays known as "Instituto de Biociências de Rio Claro (IBRC)", Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho (UNESP), Rio Claro Campus.

Hebling's first scientific endeavors began very early, in 1964, when he was a young graduate student. His supervisor at that time was the renowned Dr. Warwick Kerr and together they studied the biology of bees and published two papers (see list below).

After Hebling assumed a teacher position at the University, Dr. Walter Narchi (PhD from the "Universidade de São Paulo") supervised him during

his PhD in Zoology (1972). His thesis was entitled “Functional anatomy of limnic bivalves from the State of São Paulo”. In addition to the publication of the thesis, they also published other papers together, including one on hermit crabs (see list below).

From 1965 to 1995 he worked full time as professor and researcher at IBRC, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. During those years he lectured Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology to undergraduate students of Sciences and Biological Sciences, and General Zoology, to Ecology students. With respect to graduate courses, he lectured and supervised in Biological Sciences – Zoology, at the IBRC, and in Aquaculture – an area of Biology of Aquatic Organisms at UNESP's Aquaculture Center, in Jaboticabal, São Paulo. He supervised several students from undergraduate, specialization and graduate (both Master's and Doctoral levels) courses.

Hebling had also an intense administrative workload, acting as head of the undergraduate course of Biological Sciences, chief of the Zoology Department, and Vice-director of IBRC. He integrated several committees that created new courses and/or faculties at the UNESP administration. He also participated in the foundation of UNESP's Aquaculture Center, one of his most relevant administrative activities.

With respect to his scientific legacy, in the 1970s, he faced the challenge of poor infrastructure but was able to initiate a research line named “Larval Development of Marine Decapod Crustaceans”. Sérgio de Almeida Rodrigues (PhD from “Universidade de São Paulo”) motivated him, and together they were the pioneers in establishing a successful larval rearing protocol for invertebrates in Brazil.

Hebling's innovative work has continued through the hands of his students and following generations. Thanks to his research field, the implementation of the first collection of larval and juvenile decapods from the Brazilian coast became a reality. It is located at “Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências”, UNESP Botucatu, São Paulo, under the responsibility of Fransozo and Negreiros-Fransozo (two former Hebling's students).

In 2000, the Brazilian Crustacean Society (SBC) held the first meeting of what would become a biennial event named Brazilian Crustacean Congress. On this occasion, the SBC board decided to honor

Hebling, among few renowned carcinologists, for their contributions to the knowledge of crustaceans.

After his retirement, Hebling remained active as a volunteer professor at IBRC for approximately thirteen years.

On December 4, 2008, Hebling was honored with the title of “Emeritus Professor” by the IBRC High Committee, in recognition of his exceptional track record of teaching, research, and services to University's community.

Nowadays, Hebling is retired from those activities, but enjoying life with his beautiful family. Nevertheless, he remains a good friend and esteemed colleague at all times. Thus, we offer him this collection of articles on crustaceans, developed by his friends and colleagues (Sérgio L. de Siqueira Bueno and Célio U. Magalhães), former students (Adilson Fransozo and Maria Lucia Negreiros-Fransozo, his scientific children), in addition to students from his students (his scientific grandchildren) and so on. Our intention is to demonstrate our respect and gratitude for his devotion to science and for supervising us. Additionally, the Brazilian Crustacean Society appreciates his significant contribution to carcinology.

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