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David Grimaldi—appreciations

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The previous issue of *Palaeoentomology* brought the first set of papers honoring David A. Grimaldi on the occasion of his 65th birthday. With the current one, it is continued, in recognition of his impact on the fields of amber studies, palaeontology, palaeo- and neoentomology, and evolutionary biology. After the success of *Jurassic Park* (both the Michael Crichton book from 1990 and the Steven Spielberg movie from 1993) everyone wants to know more know about the miracles of long ago that are encapsulated in petrified resin. *Amber: window to the past* (Grimaldi, 1996) originally published to accompany a 1996 exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, explored the properties of amber and revealed its role in tracing evolutionary history and its use in the decorative arts and jewelry. This surge in interest in amber and palaeoentomology resulted the establishment of the International Palaeoentomological Society in 2001 at the Second International Congress on Palaeoentomology—Fossil Insects, and particularly the study of insect inclusions in amber from various parts of the world. An essential reference for anyone interested in the study of amber fossils, insect evolution, and the earliest stages of the association between insects and angiosperms devoted to amber from New Jersey and edited by Grimaldi (2000), provided an incredibly vivid window into animal and plant evolution in the Late Cretaceous. Another book—*Evolution of the insects* (Grimaldi & Engel, 2005)—is the first comprehensive synthesis of all aspects of insect evolution integrating the living and fossil record. The book was a great source of information about what we know at the time of its publication, but also highlighted what we do not know, making the book a great source of inspiration for subsequent studies.

Below are some more words from Colleagues appreciating the contribution of David Grimaldi to studies on amber and palaeoentomology.

Dany Azar—I first met David during the World Congress on Amber and its Inclusions in 1998 in Vitoria-

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Gasteiz (Basque Country, Spain). I was then a second-year PhD candidate studying Lebanese amber and its inclusions. I was certainly impressed by the work of a bunch of world authorities on amber and fossil insects, among whom David was (and still) an idol to follow. During this event I was very delighted to exchange conversation with David who invited me to visit his laboratory in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. This visit was scheduled in February 1999. I was well received by David who generously put on my disposal the Lebanese amber collection deposited in the AMNH and all the facilities of his lab, and a series of collaboration on different projects begun. I was (and still am) admirative of the personality of David and the rigorous standards and the very high quality aspects of his scientific and artistic work. I always tried to follow his fantastic artistic style in scientific artworks. I was never disappointed by any of his scientific publications; in contrary, I was always admirative. Dave, I wish you all the best for your anniversary and wish you a long life where you continue to impress us with your wonderful work.

Neal L. Evenhuis—I've known Dave Grimaldi for six decades, even a couple of centuries. He is an amazing person, a wonderful colleague, and an entomologist with an Eveready Battery Bunny inside him that just keeps going and going and going. His productivity in so many areas of entomology—not just Diptera—and the superb illustrations that accompany his papers have always been an influence on me in my work. We should all be particularly thankful that David did not go into administration, which he could easily have done when he had the chance. His decision to stay in research has been a benefit to everyone. Congratulations on your past achievements, Dave, and best wishes for your continued success.

Conrad C. Labandeira—Although I cannot recall coauthoring a paper with David, he has been an incredible boon in advancing knowledge of fossil insects, particularly Diptera. David's studies of amber and compression dipteran fossils have been very impressive and he has moved the field considerably forward in our understanding of the biology, relationships, and ecology of fossil insects, as reflected by his book, *Evolution of the insects*, coauthored with Michael Engel. I hope David continues to push the field forward and I suspect that the best is yet to come.

Enrique Peñalver—I started to collaborate with Dr David Grimaldi at the beginning of 2004. At that time, I had the honor to do my post doctorate studies at the AMNH under his supervision. I deeply appreciate how patient he was during the first months of my stay in New York and also for carefully selecting several unique and interesting specimens in Dominican amber for us to research together. The two years that I spent at the AMNH certainly changed the way I conduct my research, and it was all without a doubt thanks to David Grimaldi for showing me how to be more rigorous, pay attention to details, and a new way to be more direct to reach my goals. I am extremely grateful for the knowledge he passed on to me, his kindness, and the time he dedicated to me even when he was so busy. Ever since then, we continue collaborating and it has always been very fruitful. Not only is David an extraordinary colleague but also someone I consider a friend.

David Penney—An absolute powerhouse of palaeoentomology—very grateful for the fossil material he has sent me over the years, for his collaboration with my edited volume on '*Biodiversity of fossils in amber from the major World deposits'* (Penney, 2010) and for breakfast in South Africa 2005!

Alexandr P. Rasnitsyn—The input of David Grimaldi to science is really great and is at least three-fold: as the author of many important publications (including the grossbook '*Evolution of the insects*'), as the editor of numerous collections of papers on fossil insects and relative subjects, and as the kindly host of visitors to his lab and explorers of the collections under his care. I myself have enjoyed his hospitality many times when visiting his laboratory and working with collections there, not to mention the importance for the knowledge gleaned from his publications. It is my appreciation of David as a great figure in modern palaeoentomology and a nice person in communication.

Andrew J. Ross—The first contact I had with David was shortly after my discovery of 'The Piltdown fly'—Hennig's *Fannia scalaris* in 1993 and he invited me to collaborate with him on a paper he was writing about amber fakes (Grimaldi *et al*., 1995). I can't remember if David visited me once or twice at the Natural History Museum in London though certainly he and Michael Engel visited as part of their grand tour to gather material for their monumental book *Evolution of the insects*. David invited me to New York to study his collection of Santana Formation cockroaches and I spent an enjoyable week in his office looking at them, though unfortunately never found enough time later to complete the work—sorry David. It wasn't the best time to visit New York as it was only about a month after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre so the atmosphere was very subdued. David became interested in Burmese (Myanmar) amber, though initially was not convinced by Zherikhin's and my suggestion that it was Cretaceous in age until he acquired his own collection and realised there was some similarity with the insects in New Jersey amber. We collaborated on the description of a cockroach in Burmese amber (Grimaldi & Ross, 2004), which has been 'moved from pillar to post' by subsequent authors but is

now back in the family where we originally described it. Our last collaborative work was a book chapter about Burmese amber (Grimaldi & Ross, 2017) which was a lot of work but ultimately satisfying and paved the way for me to carry on with the Burmese amber checklists. It is such a pity that the study of this amber has been tainted by the atrocities that took place in Myanmar in 2017. Finally, I would like to thank David for being very supportive of my career over the years.

Mónica M. Solórzano Kraemer—Thank you David Grimaldi, for motivating and inspiring generations to work with fossil insects.

Ryszard Szadziewski—I was in the USA in 1990 on a research trip with financial support from a grant from the KBN (State Committee of Scientific Research of Poland) and the University of Gdańsk. It was then that I met David, who arranged financial support for me to stay at the Museum of Natural History in New York. For us poor people from the former communist bloc, his involvement and support was very important. Even his American colleagues from Washington and Florida were impressed by his kindness and efficiency in arranging support for my stay in New York.

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