



**Michael Ilmari Saaristo**  
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**(1938–2008)**

## Preface

This issue of *Arthropoda Selecta* was originally planned to honour the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Michael I. Saaristo. First circular with invitation to contribute papers was sent in May 2007 when Michael was still very active, in spite of serious illness, in his studies of Oonopidae (revision of African *Opopaea* in this issue) and some genera of Linyphiidae. Michael was very happy when he heard that so many of his colleagues living in all continents wanted to submit a paper to this special publication. Unfortunately he passed away in April 2008, less than half a year before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was not able to see this volume. The death of Michael Saaristo was a great loss to his family, his friends and colleagues, and to Arachnology research.

Not all manuscripts submitted to this issue passed the review process, as some were not fitting in the profile of the Journal or Michael's interests. Some of the accepted papers, which needed revisions, were re-submitted too late to be included in this memorial issue. They will be published in the future volumes of this Journal.

We wish to thank all colleagues who submitted manuscripts, and all reviewers of this volume for their valuable work, special thanks are to Robin Leech, Darrell Ubick, Justin Gerlach and Rowland Snazell who edited English in several manuscripts.

*Yuri M. Marusik and Seppo Koponen*