

## **Obituary – Dr. Kristian Fauchald – WoRMS Polychaeta founding editor**

*Kristian Fauchald, emeritus research zoologist at the Smithsonian Institution, and a founding editor of the World Register of Marine Species ([WoRMS](#)) passed away the 5th April 2015.*

Kristian was born in Norway in 1935, took degrees at the University of Bergen, and in 1961 made his first publication on Norwegian occurrences of a crab; he thereafter published nearly exclusively on annelids for the rest of his career. He moved to California in 1965 for his Ph.D. studies with Olga Hartman and in 1969 was appointed assistant professor of biology at University of Southern California (USC). He was also appointed curator of marine annelids at the Allan Hancock Foundation, where he worked until 1979. The Allan Hancock Foundation had developed an outstanding polychaete collection under Olga Hartman, and Kristian collaborated with her and carried on the tradition she had built as well as developing his own influential studies. While at USC and the Allan Hancock Foundation, Kristian's publication highlights were his famous "Pink Book" guide to the polychaetes (Fauchald 1977) and the "Diet of Worms" together with Peter Jumars (Fauchald & Jumars) 1979 – the former cited 1005 and the latter 1737 times!

Kristian moved in 1979 to the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution where he remained. While there he concentrated on systematics within Eunicida resulting in a series of major revisionary monographs. In more recent times he has devoted his time to the problematic scaleworms. He was also instrumental in the first broadscale morphological cladistic analyses across annelids.

Beyond his own research Kristian was a mentor for many worm workers and he taught in a series of 'Polychaete Biology Classes' at Santa Catalina Marine Lab (with Paul C. Schroeder), Friday Harbor (with Peter Jumars, and later with Sally Woodin and Herb Wilson) and Biologisk Stasjon Espegrend, and in other polychaete-oriented courses at Ischia and Lecce in Italy, Brazil, Iceland and Madrid. The home of Kristian and his husband Leonard Hirsch in Washington DC was a haven to a long list of annelid workers.

Kristian was rare in many ways and, not least in keeping an open mind and being able to take part in a paradigm shift in systematics. Starting out with his first publication in 1961 he was well educated in the school of evolutionary taxonomy, but later, in the 80th and 90th decades re-educated himself into tree-thinking and phylogenetics. He had a life-long interest in philosophy of science and life itself.

A sense of the esteem with which he was held in the annelid community can be seen in the taxa that were named for him (including homonyms!) as compiled from [WoRMS](#):

*Amphisamytha fauchaldi* Solís-Weiss & Hernández-Alcántara, 1994  
*Caulleryaspis fauchaldi* Salazar-Vallejo & Buzhinskaja, 2013  
*Chirimia fauchaldi* Light, 1991  
*Clavodorum fauchaldi* Desbruyères, 1980  
*Clymenella fauchaldi* Carrasco & Palma, 2003  
*Diopatra kristiani* Paxton, 1998  
*Dodecaseta fauchaldi* Green, 2002  
*Eunice kristiani* Hartmann-Schröder & Zibrowius, 1998  
*Hypereteone fauchaldi* (Kravitz & Jones, 1979)  
*Eunice fauchaldi* Miura, 1986  
*Fauchaldius* Carrera-Parra & Salazar Vallejo, 1998  
*Fauchaldonuphis* Paxton, 2005  
*Fauveliopsis fauchaldi* Katzmann & Laubier, 1974  
*Gesaia fauchaldi* Kirtley, 1994  
*Hypereteone fauchaldi* (Kravitz & Jones, 1979)  
*Kinbergonuphis fauchaldi* Wu, Wang & Wu, 1987  
*Kinbergonuphis fauchaldi* Lana, 1991  
*Kinbergonuphis kristiani* Leon-Gonzalez, Rivera & Romero, 2004  
*Linopherus fauchaldi* San Martín, 1986  
*Linopherus kristiani* Salazar-Vallejo, 1987  
*Lumbrineris fauchaldi* Blake, 1972  
*Marphysa fauchaldi* Glasby & Hutchings, 2010  
*Melinna fauchaldi* Gallardo, 1968  
*Neogyptis fauchaldi* Pleijel, Rouse, Sundkvist & Nygren, 2012  
*Nereis fauchaldi* Leon-Gonzalez & Diaz-Castaneda, 1998  
*Notodasus kristiani* García-Garza, Hernandez-Valdez & De León-González, 2009  
*Paradiopatra fauchaldi* Buzhinskaja, 1985  
*Piromis fauchaldi* Salazar-Vallejo, 2011  
*Poecilochaetus fauchaldi* Pilato & Cantone, 1976  
*Prionospio fauchaldi* Maciolek, 1985  
*Pseudatherospio fauchaldi* Lovell, 1994  
*Rullierinereis fauchaldi* Leon-Gonzalez & Solis-Weiss, 2000  
*Sarsonuphis fauchaldi* Kirkegaard, 1988  
*Sphaerephesia fauchaldi* Kudenov, 1987  
*Sphaerodoridium fauchaldi* Hartmann-Schröder, 1993  
*Sphaero doropsis fauchaldi* Hartmann-Schröder, 1979

Kristian, or maestro as we [Pleijel and Rouse] called him behind his back, was a wonderful mentor for us both. He and Len [Leonard Hirsch] hosted us in Washington DC as we began our wormy careers and we met many times over the succeeding years; in the field, at conferences and at courses. His deep knowledge of worms and philosophy constantly had us questioning and discussing, such as over a cold beer after a days work at the Smithsonian's laboratory at Carrie Bow Cay, Belize. He had a great laugh and we miss him.

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**Note:** *This obituary and memoriam was first prepared by Dr. Fredrik Pleijel (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) and Dr. Greg Rouse (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD, USA) and contributed by them to the WoRMS website, here:*

<http://www.marinespecies.org/news.php?p=show&id=4152>[marinespecies.org]

*With their permission, we [Reynolds and Wetzel] are again presenting this via the Dedicatio page of Nomenclatura Oligochaetologica Editio Secunda website – to honor Dr. Fauchald; he participated in the oligochaete workshops convened by the Florida Association of Benthologists at the Keys Marine Laboratory in Layton, Long Key, Florida, in the 1990s, and always invited me (Wetzel) to his office (and to the POETS grouping) at the National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Institution during my visits to Washington DC.*

*We hope to amend this memoriam to Kristian soon, to include citations for his numerous scientific publications and other contributions to our ongoing study of annelids, and a few pictures of him.*

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