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André Nel sixtieth anniversary Festschrift

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FIGURE 1. Portrait of André Nel.

During the last “International Congress on Fossil Insects, Arthropods and Amber” held this year in the Dominican Republic, we unanimously agreed—in the International Palaeoentomological Society (IPS)—to honor our great colleagues who have given us and the science (and still) significant knowledge on the evolution of fossil insects and terrestrial arthropods over the years. Sure there have been some efforts before in this purpose, undertaken

mainly by our esteemed Russian colleagues, and where several of our members in the IPS contributed in edited volumes honoring some of our great scientists.

This issue is a Festschrift to celebrate the 60th birthday of Professor André Nel (from the ‘Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle’, Paris) and constitutes a tribute to him for his great ongoing, prolific and his manifold contributions to the palaeontology, diversity, and evolution of insects.



FIGURE 2. André Nel. **A**, La Ciotat, 1968. **B**, Luberon, 1999. **C**, Saint Foy, Tarentaise, 2008. **D**, Valgaudemar, 2012. André Nel on the right. **E**, Oise amber outcrop, 1998. André Nel, the first on left.

André Nel was born on November 4th 1959, in La Ciotat (Bouches-du-Rhône), Southern France. He is currently a Professor ‘*classe exceptionnelle*’ (with exceptional class grade) in the ‘*Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle*’, Paris (MNHN), since 2013. He has been employed at the MNHN since 1994, where he served till 2013 as ‘*Maître de Conférences*’ (Associate Professor).

André’s first university studies were mathematics and he obtained the French ‘*agrégation*’—in France, the ‘*agrégation*’ is a competitive examination for civil service in the French public education system and holders of the ‘*agrégation*’ or ‘*agrégés*’ are expected to teach at high schools and universities—of Mathematics in 1983 and then he was a Professor of Mathematics in high school from 1983 till 1994, but his passion was always collecting and studying fossil and recent insects. In the same year (1983), André wrote his first publication on fossil

Odonata originated from his beloved early Oligocene Aix-en-Provence fossil insects’ outcrop.

In 1991, André achieved his PhD in Sciences, specializing in geology, from the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA), and in 1995 he obtained the ‘*Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches*’ abbreviated HDR (Accreditation to Supervise Research) from the same University.

André received several awards and prizes among which: ‘*Prix Pesson*’ from the ‘*Société Entomologique de France*’—the oldest entomological society in the world, founded in 1832—in 1994; ‘*Prix Gadeau de Kerville*’ from the ‘*Société Entomologique de France*’ in 2002; ‘*Prix Balachowski*’ from the prestigious French ‘*Académie des Sciences*’ in 2016 (Figs 4B–E); and the Medal of the International Palaeoentomological Society in 2019 (Figs 5A–D).



FIGURE 3. André Nel in field work. **A**, Gonfaron. **B**, Oise amber outcrop, 1998. André Nel on the right. **C**, **D** & **E**, Spitzbergen, Svalbard, 2011. André Nel on the left in **E**.

To date, André has supervised the PhDs and Accreditations to Supervise Research of several professionals in Entomology and Palaeoentomology: Dany Azar (Lebanon); Gunther Fleck (France); Julián Petrulevičius (Argentina); Gérard Masselot (France); Olivier Béthoux (France); Vincent Perrichot (France); Clément Coiffard (France); Joanna Choufani (Lebanon), Salman Shayya (Lebanon) and Romain Garrouste (France). He has also collaborated with many French and International colleagues across the world dealing with amber, fossil and recent insects and their evolution.

André's reputation is global, and with his fascinating ability to embrace almost all insect groups, extant and extinct, he is considered a pioneer in the '*renaissance*' of palaeoentomology, whereas previous to his work, this discipline was considered as marginal. André's efforts represent a milestone in the successful golden age that palaeoentomology is encountering at present.

He has trained (and still trains) two generations of young researchers able to comprehend the palaeodiversity of insects and allow them to join the field of paleontology and evolution of insects. His researches focuses on all fields of entomology, with a strong emphasis on comparative morphology and fossil insects; as well as including the use of the phylogenetic tools, and development of new tools in comparative morphology and palaeoecology.

In addition to his work on fossil insects, André Nel has been the scientific manager of the world's largest collection of terrestrial arthropods in his institution (MNHN), as well as the collection of fossil insects that he has helped to increase considerably and enabled it to become one of the most important in the world. This proximity between palaeontological and recent collections, a real cradle of original paleobiological studies and a new paradigm for evolutionary biology, has enabled André Nel to tackle the immense task of solving major problems—dating back



FIGURE 4. André Nel. **A**, Receiving international colleagues (here Diyang Huang). **B**, Collège de France, for reception of the ‘Prix Balachowsky’, 2016. **C**, Reception of the ‘Prix Balachowsky’ from the prestigious French ‘*Académie des Sciences*’. **D** and **E**, Medal of the ‘Prix Balachowsky’.

through more than 200 years of entomological studies—of vein homologies of insect wings at the scale of the entire subclass. Moreover, André Nel is one of the pioneers in the use and exploration of new analyzing techniques like 3D analysis of amber inclusions by tomography.

André has written (and very actively still) several hundreds of scientific publications with a considerable number among them in highly prestigious worldly renown scientific journals. A list of his publications (only till his 60th anniversary, as in almost every month several of his publications are continually appearing!) is given below.

André has lead and participated in several field studies (Figs 2E, 3A–E) in France (Aix-en-Provence, Oise, Luberon, Céreste, Lodève, Saint Bauzille, Charente Maritime, Avion, Menat, Var etc.), Mauritania, Lebanon, Isle of Wight, Spain, Spitzbergen (Norway),

New Caledonia etc., and has gathered huge fossil insect collections from several French outcrops, thereby steadily enriching the collections of the MNHN and making these collections among the most important in the world. Moreover, has essentially transformed his institution to an obligate destination to all searchers from all over the world (Canada, United States of America, Mexico, French Guyana, Brazil, Argentina, Russia, Denmark, United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Slovakia, Italy, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Iran, China, Japan, Australia etc.) for any study of fossil insects.

We wish André a long life full of health and additional success, and we are always looking forward his prolific high quality publications.



FIGURE 5. André Nel. **A**, Reception of the medal of the International Palaeontological Society (IPS) from Dany Azar, former President of the IPS, on 26th November 2019. **B**, André Nel holding the medal of the IPS. **C**, The medal of the IPS. **D**, The picture used to make the medal.

Appendix: Publications of André Nel till his 60th birthday

1983:

- Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1983) Description d'une nouvelle espèce d'Odonate fossile du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence. *L'Entomologiste*, 39 (3), 119–122.

1984:

- Nel, A. & Descimon, H. (1984) Une nouvelle espèce de Lépidoptère fossile du Stampien de Céreste (04) (Lepidoptera Satyridae). *Géologie Méditerranéenne*, 11 (4), 287–293.
<https://doi.org/10.3406/geolm.1984.1330>
- Nel, A. (1984) Description d'une nouvelle espèce de termite fossile du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence (Dictyoptera, Termitidae, Termitinae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 1 (3), 159–160.
- Nel, A. 1984. Sur la présence du genre *Lithymnetes* Scudder dans le bassin stampien d'Apt-Céreste (Vaucluse-Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) (Orthoptera, Locustidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 40 (4), 165–168.

1985:

- Nel, A. (1985) Sur la présence d'un *Lestes* Leach, 1815 fossile de la lignée de *Lestes regina* Théobald dans les calcaires stampiens d'Aix-en-Provence (Odon. Lestidae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 1 (4), 317–319.
- Nel, A. (1985) Une nouvelle espèce d'Odonate fossile du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence (B.d.R.) (Odonata Libellulidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 41 (2), 55–59.
- Nel, A. (1985) Sur la présence d'un Coléoptère Mordellidae fossile dans les calcaires stampiens de Céreste (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence). *L'Entomologiste*, 41 (3), 119–121.
- Nel, A. & Nel, J. (1985) A propos de chenilles et de chrysalides fossiles du Stampien en France. *Alexanor*, 14 (3), 126–130.
- Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1985) Description d'une nouvelle espèce fossile de *Lestes* Leach, 1815, du Stampien de Céreste (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) (Odon. Lestidae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 1 (4), 275–279.
- Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1985) Description d'une nouvelle espèce d'Odonate fossile du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence (Odon. Libellulidae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 1 (4), 351–355.

1986:

- Nel, A. (1986) Révision du genre cénozoïque *Stenolestes* Scudder, 1895; description de deux espèces nouvelles (Insecta, Odonata, Lestidae). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4), 8 (4), 447–461.
- Nel, A. & Nel, J. (1986) A propos de deux Lépidoptères fossiles du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence (Lepidoptera, Hesperidae et Nymphalidae Satyrinae). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4), 8 (3), 343–350.
- Nel, A. & Séméria, Y. (1986) Une nouvelle espèce de Chrysopidae fossile du Stampien supérieur (Oligocène) d'Aix-en-Provence. *Neuroptera International*, 4 (1), 23–30.
- Nel, A. (1986) Sur la présence du genre *Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775 dans les calcaires stampiens de Céreste (Odonata, Aeshnidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 42 (4), 195–198.
- Nel, A. (1986) Sur trois espèces nouvelles de termites fossiles du Stampien d'Aix-en-Provence (Bouches-du-Rhône) (Dictyoptera, Hodotermitidae, Mastotermitidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 42 (5), 271–278.
- Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1986) Sur une nouvelle espèce d'Odonate fossile du Stampien de Céreste (Luberon) (Odonata, Lestidae). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie*, (N.S.), 3 (2), 227–233.
- Bigot, L., Nel, A. & Nel, J. (1986) Description de la première espèce fossile connue de Pterophoridae (Lepidoptera Pterophoridae). *Alexanor*, 14 (6), 283–288.

1987:

- Nel, A., Gill, G.A. & Nury, D. (1987) Découverte d'empreintes attribuables à des Coelentérés Siphonophores Chondrophorides dans l'Oligocène de Provence. *Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences*, Paris, (2), 305, 637–641.
- Nel, A. (1987) Deux nouveaux termites du Tertiaire du Sud-Est de la France (Dictyoptera, Hodotermitidae, Kalotermitidae). *Revue Française d'Entomologie*, (N.S.), 9 (1), 17–20.
- Nel, A. (1987) Un nouveau Calopterygidae fossile des laminites oligocène d'Armissan (Aude, France) (Odonata). *Revue Française d'Entomologie*, (N.S.), 9 (3), 147–148.
- Nel, A. (1987) Sur une nouvelle espèce fossile du genre *Lestes* Leach, 1815, du calcaire stampien de Céreste (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) (Odonata Lestidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 43 (2), 113–116.
- Nel, A. (1987) Sur la présence du genre *Carabus* L., 1758, dans les calcaires du Stampien de Céreste (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) (Coleoptera: Carabidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 43 (5), 243–246.
- Nel, A. (1987) Sur une espèce nouvelle d'Aeshnidae du Stampien supérieur du Bois d'Asson (Manosque, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence). *L'Entomologiste*, 43 (6), 321–323.
- Nel, A. (1987) Les Insectes fossiles: leur importance en paléobiogéographie du Tertiaire. Premier Congrès Français de Sédimentologie, Paris, 19 et 20 nov. 1987, 263.

1988:

- Nel, A. (1988) Deux *Di cladispa* fossiles des gisements de diatomites néogènes de Bes-Konak (Turquie) et de Murat (France) (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae Hispinae). *Geobios*, 21 (3), 369–374.

- Nel, A. (1988) Parazacallitinae, nouvelle sous-famille et premier Epallagidae de l'Oligocène européen (Odonata, Zygoptera). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4), 10 (2), 175–179.
 - Nel, A. (1988) Deux nouveaux Mantispidae (Planipennia) fossiles de l'Oligocène du Sud-Est de la France. *Neuroptera International*, 5 (2), 103–109.
 - Nel, A. (1988) Les Sialidae (Megaloptera) fossiles des diatomites de Murat (Cantal, France) et de Bes-Konak (Anatolie, Turquie). *Neuroptera International*, 5 (1), 39–44.
 - Nel, A. (1988) Redescription de *Eosirex ligniticus* Piton, 1940 (Hymenoptera, Symphyta, Siricidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 44 (5), 287–292.
 - Nel, A. (1988) Une Nèpe fossile de l'Éocène supérieur du bassin d'Alès (Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Nepidae). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie* (N.S.), 5 (3), 273–276.
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- Nel, A. (1989) Les Gyrinidae fossiles de France (Coleoptera). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (N.S.), 25 (3), 321–330.
 - Nel, A. (1989) Les Calosomes fossiles de l'Oligocène du Sud-Est de la France (Col. Carabidae). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France*, 93 (9–10), 257–268.
 - Nel, A. (1989) *Piroutetia liasina* Meunier, 1907, Insecte du Lias de France, espèce-type des Piroutetiidae nov. fam. (Odonatoptera, Meganeurina). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4), 11 (1), 15–19.
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 - Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1990) Les Coenagrionoidea fossiles de l'Oligocène du Sud-Est de la France (Zygoptera: Platycnemididae, Coenagrionidae). *Odonatologica*, 19 (3), 251–262.
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 - Nel, A. & Blot, Ph. (1990) Paléontologie de la paléotuffière Éocène de Sézanne (Marne, France) (Insectes Odonata, Trichoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera). *Entomologica Gallica*, 2 (1), 26–31.
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- ### 1991:
- Martínez-Delclòs, X. & Nel, A. (1991) Découverte de trois Insectes fossiles dans l'Oligocène inférieur du Bassin de l'Ebre (Espagne) (Odonata, Lestidae, Aeshnidae). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4), 13 (3–4), 157–165.
 - Nel, A. (1991) Description et révision de trois "Siricidae" fossiles du Cénozoïque (Hymenoptera, Siricina, Vespina) *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France*, 96 (3), 247–253.
 - Nel, A. (1991) Un nouvel Odonate fossile du Miocène de Bellver de Cerdana (Espagne) (Odonata, Libellulidae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 2 (3), 129–130.
 - Nel, A. (1991) Description de quelques Sieblosiidae fossiles nouveaux (Odonata, Zygoptera, Lestoidea). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie*, (N.S.), 8 (4), 367–375.
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- ### 1992:
- Nel, A. (1992) Essai de révision des Berytidae fossiles (Heteroptera, Pentatomorpha). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*,

Paris, (4), 14 (3–4), 275–287.

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53. Nel, A. (1992) Redescription de la Libellule fossile “*Malmagrimon eichstaettense* (Hagen, 1862)” (Odonatoptera, Odonata, Archizyoptera, Jurassique supérieur). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France*, 96 (5), 433–442.
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56. Nel, A. & Escuillé, F. (1992) Présence du genre *Stenolestes* Scudder, 1895 dans les laminites oligocènes du Revest-des-Brousses (Lubéron, France). (Insecta, Odonata, Zygoptera, Lestoidea, Sieblosiidae). *L'Entomologiste*, 48 (4), 1–13.
57. Nel, A. & Papazian, M. (1992) Redescription de *Calopteryx sannoisiensis* Meunier, 1914, Odonata fossile de l'Oligocène terminal d'Aix-en-Provence. (Odonata, Calopterygidae). *Entomologica Gallica*, 3 (1), 10–12.
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<https://doi.org/10.3989/egool.93495-6362>
61. Nel, A. & Paicheler, J.-C. (1992 (1993)) Les Odonata fossiles: État actuel des connaissances. Huitième partie: Les Calopterygoidea fossiles (Odonata, Zygoptera). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France*, 97 (4), 381–396.
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65. Nel, A. & Paicheler, J.-C. (1992 (1993)) Les Odonata fossiles: état actuel des connaissances. Deuxième partie: Les Petaluroidea et Cordulegastridae fossiles. (Odonata, Anisoptera, Petaluroidea). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie, (N.S.)*, 9 (4): 305–323
66. Nel, A. (1993) Nouveaux Raphidioptera fossiles du Cénozoïque de France. E.P.H.E., *Travaux du Laboratoire de Biologie et d'Evolution des Insectes*, 6, 99–108.
67. Nel, A. & Escuillé, F. (1993) Découverte d'un nouveau genre de Sieblosiidae dans le Miocène supérieur de l'Ardèche (France) (Odonata, Zygoptera, Lestoidea, Sieblosiidae). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie, (N.S.)*, 10 (3), 233–242.
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73. Nel, A. & Escuillé, F. (1994) A new dragonfly from the Lower Cretaceous of Brazil. (Odonata, Anisoptera). *Palaeontology*, 37 (4), 923–930.
74. Nel, A. & Henrotay, M. (1994) Les Chrysopidae mésozoïques. État actuel des connaissances. Découverte d'un nouveau genre et nouvelle espèce dans le Jurassique inférieur (Lias) (Insecta, Planipennia, Chrysopidae). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France, (N.S.)*, 30 (3), 293–318.
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