

Torstein Kvamme – 50 years in forest entomology

Torstein Kvamme was born on 22 December 1952 in Norway's oldest town Tønsberg and grew up in Sandefjord. In his younger days he spent time as a sailor, carpenter and lumberjack. On the 12 August 1974 he was employed by Professor Alf Bakke, the head of the forest entomology unit at the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute (NISK) now NIBIO.

In the 1970s there was a large outbreak of spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) in Norway and Sweden. Knowledge about control and general biology of the beetle was highly demanded from forest practice. Alf Bakke clarified the pheromone communication in the spruce bark beetle and started to develop methods for mass-trapping and monitoring. The results were not only used in practice but were also essential to later research work by many researchers in Europe. The knowledge about spruce bark beetles increased dramatically during these years, both theoretically as well as applied aspects. Torstein was hired and much of the early work for Torstein included a lot of hard field work as an assistant to Bakke. Quite soon joint publications started to appear. Torstein was all the time encouraged to learn and study bark beetles by his mentor Bakke. Torstein expanded his interest into ants and became more and more like an extension entomologist with a broad knowledge in forest insects. The cooperation with Bakke lasted for more than 40 years, and after Bakke was retired, they still keep almost daily contact. A delicious dinner with wine, sharing many nice memories in Torstein's magnificent house in Ås, Bakke, now in the age of 96 is often invited. As a skilled carpenter Torstein has restored the charming villa and created a special atmosphere, with many bookshelves filled, art on the walls and cabinets with special glass bottles.

In Torstein's professional life he developed knowledge in taxonomy in long horn beetles, bark beetles and ants. Torstein has written more than 100 publications. Not only scientific publications but also several books and popular papers about forest insects.

In recent years Torstein has enjoyed working with insect collections, developing, improving and building a comprehensive forest insect collection in NIBIO, of which he is very enthusiastic about. New cabinets and drawers are prepared for incorporation of insect specimens of scientific as well as applied entomology importance. He also takes care of the education of his successor in this field. In addition to this, he is available to help his colleagues with experiences from his scientific life. Torstein also still likes to travel abroad, even to very distant locations, like the African and Asian continents etc. And he is also rather proud about local, Norwegian fauna, during excursions with his colleagues, also from abroad, he is always keen to look for new species for the country as well as for science. Among others, this was also a basic idea to hold a scientific symposium in Ås concerning the scientific contributions of this issue of the Norwegian Journal of Entomology. Thanks to this event, leading specialists in bark beetle studies from several European countries came together!

Torstein is a very social person, always curious about other people and he make new contacts everywhere he goes. One of the most spectacular activities was the hunt for the highest ant nest in the forest. People searched for the highest ant (*Formica aquilonia*) nest they could find. The contest was expanded into Sweden as well and the highest ant hill was found in Northern Sweden! 279 cm!

Åke Lindelöw & Miloš Knížek



Participants of the Symposium on bark beetle research (INBIO, Ås, Norway, 2023). From left: Lawrence Kirkendall (Norge/USA), Mathias Just Justesen (Denmark), Massimo Faccoli (Italy), Åke Lindelöw (Sweden), Boris Hrasovec (Croatia), Torstein Kvamme (Norway) and Miloš Knížek (Czechia).

Stories from Henrik Wallin

I met Torstein for the first time about 20 years ago at the Forestry Research Institute in Uppsala where I had an office working for a sister institute at the time. He brought some specimens he claimed to be *Stenostola ferrea* (Cerambycidae) with him for me to check. I had just published a work on *Stenostola* claiming that *S. ferrea* was, so far, only found in Denmark amongst all the Scandinavia countries. How wrong I was as it turned out that there was at least one population of *S. ferrea* in southern Norway, recently discovered by Torstein. Torstein impressed me with his friendly attitude, hard field work, morphological and taxonomical skills (especially involving backtracking scientific names in the old literature), and the love for ants (apart from bark beetles). I told him about a European species of *Leiopus* potentially new to science, and he immediately suggested to help with DNA extraction. We intensified our initial correspondence with Petr Svácha who encouraged us to continue the work, and we were able to separate the new species *Leiopus linnei* from the sibling species *L. nebulosus*. Torstein came back to Uppsala to help me trying to find the type of *L. nebulosus* (described by Linnaeus) in the old collections at Uppsala University, since no *Leiopus* could be found at the Linnean Society collections in London. Sadly, no type or types were found. Finally, as a last attempt, we visited Linnaeus' Hammarby (Linnaeus summerhouse) outside Uppsala, and had the unique privileged to enter the separate and reasonably fireproofed pavilion built by Linnaeus to secure his entire natural history



Trysil in Norway with Torstein and my wife Lena back in 2014 where we found one of the most southern populations of *Saperda populnea lapponica* in stems of *Salix lapponum* (some stems collected in the bag Torstein is holding).

collection (Uppsala was at that time largely destroyed by a fire). This pavilion has never been opened for the public. With shaking hands we opened the drawers in Linnaeus' original insect cabinet, still present, but of course they were all empty. Thus, we could conclude that the type was lost. Immediately after the publication we were contacted by Carolus Holzschuh who invited us to visit him in Villach, Austria. It turned out he had plenty of *Leiopus* from China that he suspected were unknown to science. Off we went "environmental friendly" on a night train from Copenhagen with a bottle of wine and slept well! The following day we met Carolus who now invited us to hike in the mountain behind his house to try and find *Leiopus* attacking *Corylus avellana*. Carolus (older) with his enormous energy led the way uphill, and we were struggling behind him. We found no *Leiopus* but instead other rare Cerambycids. In any case, after a splendid dinner at Carolus' home with his wife and son (and more wine) and lots of jokes we went back home with the Chinese material, and later described six new species of *Leiopus* from China in cooperation with Carolus' friend Meiying Lin in Beijing. Torstein and I were afterwards invited to the late Ulf Nylander in Gävle, Sweden to evaluate his entire beetle collection with the possibility for it to be acquired by a museum. Amongst the material was a very large cerambycid from Papua New Guinea that apparently had no name. Now, Ulf Nylander was not involved in the publication, since we decided to name it after him: *Potemnemus nylanderi*! Both Torstein (I know) and myself still dream on going on an expedition to Papua New Guinea! The story doesn't end here, since Torstein and I were asked by the late Stig Lundberg in Luleå to check some very small and dark specimens of *Saperda populnea* collected above the Arctic Circle. One specimen was beaten from *Salix lapponum* (downy willow) but more than that was unknown. We started a project to try to determine the host tree where I went to Kiruna, and Torstein focused on alpine areas in southern Norway. We soon could confirm that attacks were abundant everywhere on stems of downy willow where the host tree was abundant, and often multiple galls (for generations) were found on and the same branch. We cooperated with Johannes Bergsten at the Natural History Museum in Stockholm, and had intensive discussions after DNA analysis whether or not this small and dark cerambycid with much shorter antennae was a genuine species or not but the outcome was "to be or not to be a subspecies" with the name *Saperda populnea lapponica*. Future work (like all scientific work) will show whether this is true or not.

Henrik Wallin

Torstein fra innsiden (og litt fra utsiden)

Norsk institutt for bioøkonomi (NIBIO) er en institusjon med en lang historie. Jeg begynte på Norsk institutt for skogforskning (NISK) i 1997, som senere ble til Skogforsk, så til Norsk institutt for skog og landskap for til nå å være NIBIO. Instituttet har således vært igjennom mange fusjoner og endringer på ganske få år men enkelte ting endrer seg ikke selv ved fusjoner, oppsigelser, effektiviseringer, rettsaker, oppskaleringer, nedskaleringer og mye mer. Torstein er et eksempel på noe uendret i NIBIO med sine 50 år ved instituttet den 12. august, 2024. Vel, håret er litt gråere (men han har da i hvert fall hår), magen er litt større og ryggen er litt mer krokete. Men de stooooore blå øynene er de samme, det samme er hans humor og humør, hans lojalitet og standhaftighet – som noen sikkert heller vil kalle stahet og kompromissløshet.

Torsteins interesse for og kunnskap om faget han har hatt som lidenskap over flere generasjoner er viden kjent langt utenfor det entomologiske miljøet i Norge. Hans evner til å popularisere og fange interesse hos mennesker som ikke vet hva stridulasjonsorganer eller mikroskulpturer er, har gjort ham populær hos diverse mediabedrifter. Et eksempel på det er da han var drivkraften bak en konkurranse om å finne den høyeste maurtua i Norge, noe som dro små og store opp av sofaen og ut på oppdagelsesferd i skogen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XStLb2IY684>).

Alle som kjenner Torstein og har besøkt ham, vet at han som samler er plassert på riktig sted i NIBIOs entomologiske samlinger. Hans samlinger av mikroskoper, lommelerker, liljebloomster (RIP), kunst, bøker av typen «slike store tyske verrrrrker» og bygningmaterialer til oppussing de foregående og de neste 50 år fyller huset slik at kjøkkenet er det naturlige stedet når 2-4 personer samles. Er det flere enn fire, må stua ryddes og det gjør Torstein ofte. Generøs som han er, har jeg ikke tall på hvor mange ganger jeg har vært invitert til kalas hos Torstein. Glemte det enten fordi det har blitt så bekvemt vanlig eller fordi vinkorkene spretter fortere enn ved milleniumsferingene. *Pøsefest hos Torstein* burde bli et begrep til behandling i Språkrådet. Torstein tar gjerne turen til Årjäng eller Gjøvik en onsdag for å finne den rette falukorven eller elgpølsa – fordi det er *pøsefest på lørdag klokka 18:00*. Klokka 18:00 i Torsteins vokabular kan til nød være 17:57 (da får man et glass vin) men aldri 18:03! Et annet begrep som Språkrådet allerede har behandlet og inkorporert i det norske språket, er ordet ‘dugnad’ – i Torsteins ordbok betyr det vårdugnad i hagen hans. Da inviteres venner, kolleger og naboer på ‘trick & treat’. Det innbefatter svetting og opprydding av alt skrotet vinteren har etterlatt seg men med påfølgende kjempefest. For Torstein er dette en vinn-vinn fordi han, etter hvert som folk blir fullere og fullere, vet at de vil miste diverse ting i løvhaugene, slik som lommebøker, bilnøkler og briller, og han kan dermed sortere fortjenesten etterpå.

Torstein har alltid vært pliktoppfyllende og grundig. Samtidig kan han være en lidelse å diskutere med – spesielt når han har bestemt seg for noe. Det er en kombinasjon som kan være vanskelig å forholde seg til men i Torsteins tilfelle vet jeg at det er hans måte å forsikre seg på at det han overlater til andre er i tipp-topp stand. Så selv om Torstein nå offisielt er pensjonist, vil jeg fortsatt ha gleden av å kunne benytte meg av hans tjenester i NIBIOs entomologiske samlinger en stund til – noe jeg ser frem til med glede.

Karl H. Thunes

Torstein Kvamme – vännen, samlaren

[Torstein Kvamme – the friend, the collector.]

The life and work of my esteemed friend Torstein Kvamme, famous Norwegian myrmecologist, forest entomologist and collector of insects, books, art, and craft, is briefly summarized, garnished with some juicy stories from a long friendship, once (1989) initiated by an inquiry of identification of Ptiliidae (featherwing beetles). Whether appearing as a professional lily cultivator, ant taxonomist or dedicated collector of pocket flasks and natural history books, it goes with admirable knowledge, light spirit, and a humorous touch. Now, turning emeritus and entering the third age of life, we hope Torstein will continue his everlasting endeavor on the path to his combined Nirvana of erudition, life's beauty, family and friendship.

År 1989 blev jag kontaktad av en för mig okänd entomolog i Ås, Norge, som önskade min hjälp med bestämning av Ptiliidae från fällmaterial i olika skogsentomologiska projekt utförda vid dåvarande Norsk Institutt for Skogforskning (NISK) i Ås. Han lockade även oblygt med Eivind Sundts samling av Ptiliidae som befann sig på samma plats, vilket jag förstas inte kunde motstå. Detta blev den formella upptakten till vårt första möte, som initialt skedde på stationen i Moss, dit jag tagit mig med tåg från Lund. Strax befann jag mig i ett hus för tillfället behärskat av kaos, med en hungrig och gråtande ettåring (Akari), en bannande hustru (Kaori) och en värd som likt en Fred Astaire dansade genom köket, hällde upp vin och (olikt Astaire) pratade entomologi. Inte kunde jag ana att mötet där på Kajaveien i Ås skulle utvecklas till en vänskap som med åren påverkat och inspirerat mig både som människa och entomolog. Resultatet av mötet blev för övrigt en komplett genomgång och revision av Norges Ptiliidae (Sörensson & Kvamme 1995), tillika med utbredningskartor för alla arter, vilket Norge ännu är enda landet i världen att ståta med.

"Samle Dig ikke skatter på jorden, hvor møll og rust tærer"

Torstein Kvammes officiella yrkesbeteckning på dåvarande NISK var 1:e konsulent, en i sammanhanget totalt intetsägende titel. Faktum är att inte ens en hel svärm av titlar skulle på ett tillfredställande sätt täcka Torsteins alla verksamhets- och intresseområden. Förvisso dominerar entomologin, särskilt den skogliga och i rollen som samlingskurator, men den utmanas av kultur, litteratur, hantverk och konst, ibland med oväntade utflykter i esoteriska ämnen som liljeodling, løveflasker och antika mikroskop. Som en röd tråd genom hans verksamhet löper samlandet, men inte det vanliga, konventionella, utan det oväntade, gärna storslagna, med viss dragning åt det sublima och utövat med säker hand och stilkänsla. Vare sig det gäller finsnickerier, glaspokaler, etnografika eller tung vävnad är honnörsordet kvalitet. Sådan kan spåras även i detaljer, såsom i den fina samlingen av ekoxbaggar (Lucanidae), egenhändigt insamlad under en expedition till det svårtillgängliga Bhutan i Himalaya, eller i den exceptionella och i världen helt unika samlingen av *Apion*-akvareller (spissnutebiller) i jätteformat ur den engelske artisten Mark Russels fatatur. Dessa pryder några av väggarna och påminner billesamlaren om att man som entomolog aldrig är ensam (insekter finns ju överallt). Dessutom minner de om en gemensam sommarexpedition med Mark Russel och våra respektive familjer till Andøya i början av 00-talet. Solen strålade från en klar himmel, vinden hade lagt sig och Mark och Torstein arbetade sig slaghåvande uppför den paradiskt högljudda sandsluttningen mellan ishavsstranden och den höga kustplatån. Till allas vår glädje visade sig *Apion*-faunan vara förvånansvärt artrik, vilket under midnattssolen firades med en välförtjänt öl.

"Den som har flest böcker när han dör vinner"

Torsteins nuvarande position på NiBio i Ås är som senior rådgivare, sedan en kort tid tillbaka med epitetet *emeritus*. För att vara en 'simpel tekniker', som Torstein ibland drastiskt uttrycker det, har han en förbluffande rik produktion av skrifter bakom sig (>150). Han har inte bara gjort fynd av för Norge nya arter inom olika insektsgrupper utan även beskrivit nya arter från Skandinavien och från mer exotiska delar av jordklotet. Samarbetet med Europas entomologer och taxonomer är omfattande. Han medverkar gärna i media och gör regelbundet insatser för att tillgängliggöra och popularisera entomologin och dess olika aspekter. Via ett flertal resor och expeditioner i fjärran länder och världsdelar har han under årens lopp byggt upp omfattande samlingar av insekter och därtill ett värdefullt entomologiskt, natur- och kulturhistoriskt bibliotek. Som bekant kräver böcker utrymme och allt får inte plats i de egenhändigt slöjdade, väggfasta hyllorna inne i biblioteket. Sådana böcker förvaras därför i vad Torstein benämner 'bananarkivet', det vill säga undangömda kartonglådor som väntar på sortering. Torstein ärvde den kände ptiliidspecialisten Eivind Sundts entomologiska bibliotek, vilket nu bildar grundstommen i hans eget biblioteks äldre del. Faibleken för gamla rara, vackra böcker med entomologiskt innehåll kulminerade när Torstein en gång kom ner till Lund och på Runfeldts Auktioner ropade in en komplett svit av Kungliga Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar (1739-1854), inklusive alla akademitalen. Den praktfullt inbundna sviten i mer än etthundra förgyllda, samtida skinnband hade en gång stått på Trolleholms slott i Skåne och fyllde i princip en hel hyllsektion från golv till tak. Striden om sviten blev hård, med budgivare såväl i salen som per telefon, men det norska stålet bet till slut bäst, och för ett sexsiffrigt belopp kunde Torstein i triumf föra hem sviten till Ås. Dagen efter auktionen kunde man se Torstein, iklädd reptilskinnklädda, smalspetsade skor och något trött efter nattens segerorgier, skrida runt i Lunds antikvariat och ta emot gratulationer av respektfullt bugande ägare och kunder, en oförlömlig syn!



Vänster bild. Efter ännu en lyckad 'norskaften' hos Torstein viskar man i regel för att inte väcka kopparslagaren. Foto: författaren 2017. After another successful 'Norwegian dinner night' at Torstein's, we usually speak softly in order not to alert the coppersmith. Photo: the author, 2017. **Mellersta bilden.** "Med den här fenomenala yxan, inköpt i Sverige, hugger jag lätt upp 50 kubikmeter ved för vintern", säger Torstein. Foto: författaren 2023. "With this phenomenal ax, bought in Sweden, I easily chop fifty cubic meters of wood for the winter", Torstein says. Photo: the author, 2023. **Höger bild.** Torstein läser högt ur ännu ett av sina snillrika pek för en häpen och begeistrad publik. Foto: B. Mårtensson 2020. In front of an enthusiastic and stunned audience, Torstein explicitly cites from another of his ingenious papers. Photo: B. Mårtensson 2020.



Vänster bild. "Vem är den vackre gossen?", undrade frun till den legendariske finske entomologen Esko Kangas (1906-1992) (t.v.) på ett nordiskt skogsentomologmöte. Foto: Okänd, cirka 1985.

Höger bild. På expedition (med nitidulidspecialisten A. Kirejtshuk) i bergen i Altai, på gränsen mellan Kazakhstan och Mongoliet. Foto: Okänd, cirka 1995.



"Hvis en av oss dør, flytter jeg till Drammen"

Man skulle måhända tro att Torstein, med alla sina projekt och intressen, inte har tid för det timliga, men då misstar man sig grovt. Som kulinarisk och oenologisk expert har han alltid det bästa för ögonen åt sina gäster. För många år sedan lät han arrangera en 'norskaften' hemma hos författaren i Lund, varvid han bland annat bjöd på smalahove (rökt och kokt fårhuvud), kålrabimos och lefse (tunnbröd) och med rømmegrøt som avslutning - ett kulinariskt fyrverkeri! Till det serverade han Linjeakvavit. Efter att under hela eftermiddagen ha kokat fem fårhuvuden i en enorm kastrull under lock rann fettett plötsligt över och spisen kraschade i ett moln av rök (senare inköptes en ny spis, med särskilt inbyggd varningslampa för Torstein). När gästerna, de icke helt okända entomologerna Per Douwes (myrmekolog) och Björn Dal (konstnär/författare), fick syn på de med stora men döda ögon stirrande fårhuvudena på sina tallrikar vände de diskret bort dessa ett halvt varv. Inte lätt för ömmagade svenskar! Många norskaftnar har passerat sedan dess, ofta med inslag av gäster från när och fjärran. Torsteins generositet känner inga nationsgränser, och han tvekar inte att resa långt och länge för andras skull. Våra gemensamma intressen och upplevelser genom åren gör att det fortfarande känns som ett äventyr när man efter en lång färd från Lund slutligen svänger in på Kajaveien. Där väntar uppsluppen och stimulerande samvaro i en charmerande miljö och med en värd ständigt öppen för idéer och infall. Allt kan hända (och gör det ofta också). När Torstein nu går in i *emeritus*-fasen, livets tredje ålder, tillönskar alla vi vänner honom hell og lykke på vägen mot det eviga Nirvana som består av familj, vänner, skönhet och lärdom i sann förening.

Mikael Sörensson

Litteratur

Sörensson, M. & Kvamme, T. 1995 Revisionary notes on Norwegian feather-wing beetles (Col. Ptiliidae). – Fauna Norvegica (Serie B) 42: 31-42.

Greetings from colleagues at NIBIO

Torstein has been a close colleague for many years and greeted us at our very first day in the institute. He has been devoted to NIBIO's insect collection, faunistic work and taxonomy, also in periods when our institution and financial sources were less interested in this direction of entomology. Torstein has shown an outstanding stamina and creativity in keeping up the activity. We wish Torstein the very best and that he will keep up the good work for as long as he can lift the tweezers!



Upper left. Torstein (left) counting beetles in institute lab during the outbreak of *Ips typographus* in the 1970s. Estimated time of picture 1977-79. Photo: Alf Bakke. **Upper right.** Torstein in institute insect collection preparing for celebration, estimated time 1984-86. Photo: Tor Gulliksen. **Lower left.** Torstein (left) searching for beetles in Matrai National park (Hungary) together with Boris Hrasovec and Bjørn Økland in 2017. Photo: Györgi Csóka. **Lower right.** Torstein in field during inspection of beetles in drought-killed trees in Vestfold (Norway) in 2019. Photo: Bjørn Økland

Bjørn Økland, Paal Krokene and Jostein Gohli

Torstein Kvamme, bark beetles, food and me

The contact with Torstein, even though I can call it traditional, has actually not too long history. And what is more, the very first contact, by e-mail, was not as so pleasant as one would expect. Ten years ago, in 2014, I got a message full of disagreements with the occurrence of some particular bark beetle species in Norway, which were mentioned in my part in the Palaearctic Catalogue of beetles, published in 2011. But our discussion on these problems, caused by historical and inherited mistakes generally, was peaceful and constructive, and agreements were found to be very easy and smooth. Åke Lindelöw, my colleague and friend for decades, took part in this discussion also. And the collaboration and friendship with Torstein started! Next summer Torstein visited Czechia due to some “ant symposium”. We met in person and spent a couple of days in the field collecting bark beetles. Drinking a couple of Czech beers in Prague’s restaurants, we discussed the bark beetles taxonomy, systematics and distribution. The common scientific interest and some kind of shared similar feeling contributed to the development of our close friendship. The joint Norwegian “bark beetle” field excursion close to the Norwegian-Swedish border, in Versdal and Drevsjø regions, was organized by Torstein in 2016, together with



Upper left. Collecting *Ips cembrae* (Czechia, 2016). **Upper right.** Discussing the bark beetle records from field trip (Norway, 2019). **Lower left.** Bark beetle expedition with Åke Lindelöw and me (Norway, 2016). **Lower middle.** Collecting bark beetles with help of telephone! (Norway, 2019). **Lower right.** Observation of the bark beetle calamity (Czechia, 2019).



Upper left. After bark beetle collecting trip party with Ake Lindelöw and Alf Bakke (Norway, 2019). **Upper right.** New record of bark beetles must be drunk (Norway, 2019). **Lower left.** A favorite delicacy „pig knee“ with Czech beer after exhausting observation of the bark beetle calamity (Czechia, 2019). **Middle right.** Happy discussion on bark beetles (Torstein and me). **Lower right.** Participants of the Symposium on bark beetle research (INBIO, Ås, Norway, 2023).

Åke. Another “special” practice I get there recognizing the enormous difference between the central and north European entomologists. I got the impression there, that while here, in my country, when the weather is so-called “that he wouldn't drive the dog out”, it means the perfect time for forest walks and collecting bark beetles in Norway (probably in Sweden as well). Under the 2° C, strong wind and heavy rain (nearly snowing!), I got wet through and through immediately and totally frozen, legs up to mid-calf submerged in a peat bog. Simply perfect weather for beetles collecting! No wonder we didn't find what we were looking for. It's hard to express how much I hated that moment! But again, despite such

an experience, or better to say, because of such a terrifying experience, our friendships became all the stronger. I mean the friendship of all of us, Torstein, Åke and me. Probably, therefore, we repeated our common field excursion in Norway in three years again. Finally, we found several new species of bark beetles for Norway! And thanks to the visits to Torstein, I repeatedly met the “old” colleague, who I met decades ago, Alf Bakke, a leading forest entomologist, Torstein’s colleague and leader in forest science. Torstein and Åke visited me in Prague for the occasion of entomological bursa, the special traditional action, where hundreds of enthusiastic colleagues, entomologists from many world corners, came into “one hall” full of insect to exchange, sell and buy specimens and discuss the common experiences. Of course, the social side of the event is the most important; relationships are strengthened during an evening sitting in restaurants, with traditional Czech cuisine and Czech beer. As far as I know, it was the first life experience of such an event for Torstein and Åke. They met there many foreign colleagues, whom they knew from correspondence only, as well as new ones. And roasted “pig knee” became the most favorite food for Torstein! While talking about the food, Torstein really likes good food, and not just as a gourmet, but he is an excellent cook, which he proved to us on repeat visits to his place. We are regularly exchanging photographs with different food we prepared for dinner. I hope to make a trip to Torstein in the crab season! And on top of that, he is also a very skilled builder and carpenter, perfectly and precisely constructing his own house, even though some parts already took a pretty long time to be finished. But it is sure, he will show us some new parts again! Torstein’s work and entomological enthusiasm keep him permanently active and dreaming about the largest forest insect collection in the world, or in Norway at least. With his determination for the cause, it is certain that he will achieve it one day. As mentioned in the introduction, Torstein celebrated a significant life anniversary last year. He is certainly no longer the youngest, but his mind is as young as it can be, and that is the most valuable thing about it. We wish Torstein all the best not only for his birthday and not only for his anniversary year but for every day of his life and especially for days spent together with us!

Dear Torstein, as you always say: Peace and love! All the best!

Miloš Knížek

A man of the future

“I am, as you know, a man of the future.”

- One of Torstein’s many catchphrases.

I have been working with Torstein Kvamme for the last three or four years, and I am appointed to take over some of his responsibilities – mainly curation of the entomological collection at NIBIO as he is retiring. Now, I don’t think I have any specific story to tell here, but I have become fond of Torstein, and I greatly admire his expertise. I have been learning from him how to look after and work with a collection. With invaluable help from him I have also worked on improving my taxonomic competence, especially on Carabidae, Cerambycidae, Elateridae, and lately I’ve started looking into Scolytinae. He tends to be direct and sometimes has a dark sense of humour, while he also knows how to use his charm. Torstein’s impressive memory and his role to me has earned him the nickname “Guru”, which he seems to approve of. I wish we could have many more years of overlap with me and him both in the collection, as I still have a seemingly endless number of things I could learn from him. Luckily, it seems he won’t disappear any time soon. He’ll be working part-time for the foreseeable future, and I believe he will be involved at NIBIO at some capacity for as long as he wants. Besides, having been to his house only 500 meters from the institute on many occasions, I might go knocking on his door if I’m stuck trying to identify some beetle, or I have something else to discuss with him. Seeing how he’s still strong as a bull, maybe we’ll be able to do some fieldtrips down the line too.



Here we see Torstein in his relaxed position at his desk. I have realized that this is an iconic Torstein-pose, the way I see him whenever he’s on a phone call in the office. Apparently, he learned to sit through calls in this way from his old boss and colleague Alf Bakke, or “gamleproffen” (the old prof (/professor)) as he likes to refer to him. You might notice that his desk is not exactly tidy, but he knows what’s where. You know what to expect before you enter, as on his door, a note reads: “Dåren rydder, geniet behersker kaos”, which translates to something like “the fool tidies up, the genius handles chaos”. However, his desk is in stark contrast to the neatly organised entomological collection in the neighbouring rooms.



Upper. Nyman and Kvamme, near NIBIO Svanhovd, Finnmark 20.10.2021. **Lower left.** Kvamme showing off new cabinets and drawers. NIBIO Ås 23.03.2021. **Lower right.** Kvamme looking for Scolytinae, near NIBIO Svanhovd, Finnmark 20.10.2021.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the bark beetle symposium last year, where I would have met several of the people Torstein talks to and about from his chair in the office. I'm sure there will be other opportunities. Thank you, Torstein, for all the advice and the good times so far and in the future! To a long, comfortable, meaningful, and active retirement!

Henrik Antzée-Hyllseth – “the assistant”

Greetings from Massimo

Before 2023 I didn't know Torstein personally and even before I never had direct collaborations with him; the March meeting at Ås in Norway was therefore the first time I met Torstein. However, I knew the name Torstein Kvamme very well thanks to his many publications I read during my scientific growth as forest entomologist. So, when I received the invitation to participate in a 4-day meeting in Norway organized by Torstein, I felt really honored and partly scared to meet this legendary person. The journey from Venice to Ås has been long and complicated due to the snow which caused delays throughout whole Europe: 2 planes and 2 trains to finally arrive in the dark evening at -10°C in a small station where on the platform there was a Gentleman waiting for me in the cold: Torstein!

He welcomed me and greeted me like an old friend, and he took me to dinner in a small restaurant close to the station where I found the greatest European bark beetle experts: Torstein, Larry, Milos, Åke, Boris, and Mathias, some of them late like me because of the snow. From there a great experience began where I immediately felt at ease in a close-knit group of colleagues and friends, everyone crazy for small but beautiful insects called bark beetles! Dear Torstein, thank you very much for this very nice story to remember!

Massimo Faccoli

Torstein, a joyous Viking

I have known Torstein Kwamme for an incredible 42 years. That is due to the ants, which he has been working on privately and professionally since 1976. In 1982, I was employed at a research institute, where I fully used the professional library which regularly received, among other things, the biological sciences edition of the *Current Contents* journal. Here I found that a certain Norwegian colleague by the name of T. Kwamme had recently published the work *Atlas of the Formicidae of Norway* (Hymenoptera: Aculeata) in the *Insecta Norvegiae* journal. In addition to the brief abstract, also the author's address was given. On the same day, I wrote him a letter with the request to send me an offprint of that work, and to my surprise, a booklet of about 60 pages arrived by post after a few days. I thanked my colleague by return of post, and wrote him something about myself and our ants. Several years of long-distance cooperation followed, during which we exchanged a lot of information, offprints and even ants. I received Nordic species from Torstein and he, in reverse, received species of southern European provenance from me. However, later our correspondence gradually stopped.

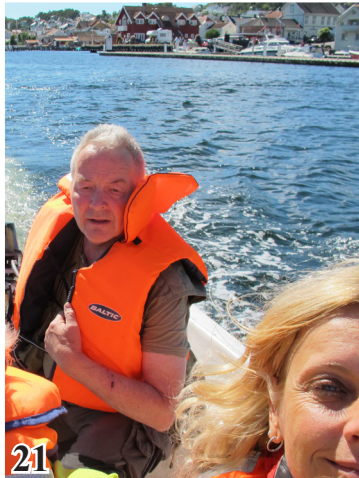
But life is very diverse and brings interesting incidents. One of these began in July 2014, when Klára (my wife, also a myrmecologist) and I visited Norway. We were there on a business trip as external workers of the Faculty of Science of Palacký University, Olomouc (Czech Republic) for several tasks. Before the journey, I had remembered Torstein with the idea to try and visit him. However, I immediately started to doubt whether he would still be active in science or otherwise. I had namely never seen him and did not even know him from photographs. So I had the idea that when he published his fundamental work on the ants of Norway in 1982, he must have been a man of respectable age already. I could nevertheless not resist the thought and shortly after, I discovered his email address at the large NIBIO research institute. I must confess that it surprised me and moreover pleased me very much that he responded to our information about the planned trip to Norway and visit to him very positively and enthusiastically.

A few days later, we arrived in Ås, and finally met each other. At the time, Torstein had serious problems with his back, walked very slowly and hunched, but despite, he did not look as old as I had imagined. His mind was sharp and above all cheerful, and his hair was long and curly (Photo 1 – Torstein at his home, third day of our visit, already without problems with his back). It was a great welcome and mutual introduction. In the evening, when we were at his home (after an excellent dinner – Torstein can cook really well) and were drinking his favourite heavy red wine, Torstein turned to me with the question how old I actually was, because he could not guess. I told him truthfully that I was born in 1952. Torstein took a big sip of wine and then revealed that he, too, was born in 1952. That was followed by the question which month I was born in, and when I said July, Torstein sadly nodded, drank a proper amount of wine again and then revealed that he was born later, in November. Then he laughed, stood up from the table and, as much as his painful back allowed, he made a bow to me as a senior colleague. It was a fantastic evening full of humour, which Torstein 'improved' by feeling my skull, after which he happily declared that it was obvious from the shape of the skull that Vikings must have been among my ancestors. He thus welcomed me to the ancient and powerful Viking family.

The next day, after a quick breakfast (Photo 2), we set off on a field trip in the surrounding of the town of Ås (Photo 3). I still remembering how surprised and excited Torstein was when Klára and I started a complete field survey of ants with the help of gardening rakes and other tools. On the last day, Torstein showed us round his workplace, and introduced us to some of his colleagues, after which we had a look at his ant collection and identified difficult samples (Photos 4 and 5). Early in the evening, he took us to the station (Photo 6), from where we continued to Trondheim for the next part of our business trip. We said goodbye almost with tears in our eyes, because a beautiful friendship had been formed







between us.

Our separation did however not last long, because Torstein came to see us in Jihlava after less than a month. During a few beautiful days we showed him not only our museum and the whole town of Jihlava, but also visited Pálava Protected Landscape Area, Lednice and its surrounding (Photos 7 and 8), and Podyjí NP (Photos 9, 10, and 11). Regarding Photo 11, I must point out that we soon discovered an interesting feature of Torstein's social behaviour. Torstein always started conversation spontaneously anywhere with any woman. And although he simply did not know them, their conversation sometimes lasted very long (Photos 12 and 13). We also visited Mohelno National Nature Reserve, where we stayed the night in a small cottage (Photos 14, 15, and 16), a magnificent peatbog at Velké Dářko (Photo 17) and many other sites in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands (Photo 18). The programme was really demanding and Torstein liked to rest now and then with our bitch (Photo 19).

In the following year (2015), Torstein arranged a short-term work contract with us at his institute in Ås for an ant survey of a number of sites in southern Norway (Photo 20). He became our guide, chauffeur, and because we also had to travel by sea, he was also our ship pilot (Photo 21). Thanks to Torstein we thus experienced Norwegian nature and plenty of great people. The programme was really demanding and our chauffeur/pilot often had to rest (Photos 22 and 23). We did not only collect ants during the surveys of dozens of sites, but also harvestmen (my other specialisation), and later jointly published the following works:

- Kvamme, T., Bezděčková, K. & Bezděčka, P. 2016. Interesting records of ants and *Lasius alienus* (Förster, 1850) (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) presented new to Norway. *Norwegian Journal of Entomology* 63, 159–163.
- Bezděčka, P., Bezděčková, K. & Kvamme, T. 2017. Revised checklist of Nordic harvestmen (Opiliones) with five species new to Norway. *Arachnologische Mitteilungen*, 54, 59–62.

We invited Torstein again to Jihlava in 2016, when we visited several interesting localities in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and eastern Bohemia during a couple of days. We also dealt with the myrmecofauna of the Eagle Mountains (Orlické hory), where we spent the night in a conservationist cabin on the main mountain ridge (Photo 24). After return to Jihlava, we took Torstein to the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area the very next day to attend a three-day field seminar named Hymenoptera in the Czech Lands and Slovakia. These seminars have been attended by Czech and Slovak hymenopterologists for many years (Photo 25). Torstein liked the seminar very much, and therefore accepted an invitation to the following ones, in the Little Carpathians in June 2017 and a year later (2018) also in the surrounding of Komárno in Slovakia. We last met Torstein at the seminar in Hradec Králové in 2019. Due to the Covid epidemic, the seminars were cancelled in the following two years, and Torstein did not come to the 2022 and 2023 seminars anymore.

We have thus not seen Torstein in the past four years and we must say that, although we often write emails to each other and have phone calls with him, we miss that grand, joyous Viking very, very much anyway (Photo 26).

Pavel Bezděčka and Klára Bezděčková

Greetings from Åke

I got to know Torstein in 1979 at the Nordic Forest Entomology meeting in Målselv in Northern Norway. We found each other over *Ips sexdentatus* in a dead pine tree and other exciting beetle species in the area. During the last decade our cooperation in bark beetle studies has been intensified. We have made several excursions in different parts of Norway targeting new species for the country and we have been quite successful, especially in company with Miloš Knížek. New papers in Norwegian Journal of Entomology are nice results as well as additions to the insect collection in NIBIO. A very important part of this work is the almost daily contact, mainly by telephone, discussing species, literature and plans for the future. The show must go on!



1. 2014. *Gutulia*. Searching for rare bark beetles in old growth spruce forest. 2. In the northernmost pine forest in Norway, Stabburskogen. 2012. 3. Lierne. 2015. First record of *Pityogenes saalasi* in Norway, found in dead spruce trees. Together with Bengt Ehnström. 4. 2019. First record of *Xyleborinus attenuatus* in Norway, found in dead grey alder. Together with Miloš Knížek and Åke Lindelöw. 5. 2017. Many happy excursions have been made. Together with Boris Hrasovec and Åke Lindelöw.

Åke Lindelöw