

IN MEMORIAM



MALCOLM ROY CLARKE
(1930 – 2013)

It was with profound sadness and disbelief that we received the message on Friday the 10th of May that our longtime collaborator and great friend had died in Horta Hospital (Faial Island, Azores) after having suffered from a heart attack. He had arrived from his home on Pico Island that same morning on the ferry that connects the two islands.

Malcolm R. Clarke FRS was born in Birmingham, UK. He graduated in Zoology from Hull University in 1955, after having served two years in the Royal Army Medical Corps and in 1954–1955 as a Government Whaling Inspector in the Antarctic. On the Factory ship he used the opportunity to sample parasites from the whales which gave material for his Ph.D. in 1959. He did research on cephalopods and predators at the National Institute of Oceanography (Wormley, Surrey) as Principal Scientific Officer from 1958 to 1972, when he moved to the Marine Biological Association of the UK in Plymouth and worked until retirement in 1987.

Malcolm was awarded a D. Sc. in 1978 and elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1981. From 1989 to 2005 he was visiting professor of the University of Liverpool and visiting scholar of the University of the Azores from 1990 to 2011. From 1993 to 1997 he did research on cetacean physiology and anatomy as a Leverhulme Research Fellow.

His research has included (1) many aspects of the biology of cephalopods including their taxonomy, vertical and horizontal distribution, swimming buoyancy, growth; (2) evolution and paleontology of cephalopods; (3) study of the buoyancy control and the sound production, conduction and control in spermaceti whales; (4) dietary studies of many species of fish, birds, seals and cetaceans; (5) calculations of biomass of cephalopods; (6) development of new sampling gear and method for catching and studying cephalopods including new trawls and the use of lights on trawls. The results are published in more than 150 papers and books.

Malcolm Clarke started a permanent collaboration with DOP/Uaz (Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of the Azores) in 1981 when he used the opportunity to work on the diet of sperm whales on Pico Island where the commercial whaling went on until 1984. Then followed studies on the diets of other great predators, fish and birds. He and his wife, Dorothy, moved permanently to Pico Island in 2000 after having been frequent visitors for a decade. They opened a remarkable self-made museum on their own premises in 2003, showing the sperm whale biology and the enigmatic world of cephalopods.

Malcolm was a treasured member of the Advisory Board of this journal during 23 years and a frequent reviewer. It was a great privilege to have a person like him close by; always ready to help and give advice. His sharp wit and dynamism were amazing. Malcolm Clarke will be a great loss for science and for the people who had the fortune to work with him.

Helen Rost Martins / José Nuno Gomes-Pereira
(Photograph: Malcolm Clarke holding an *Ommastrephes bartramii* on board HMS Challenger, taken by H. Martins off Madeira in 1986)