

AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Prof. Ing. ANTONIN KOVÁČIK, DrSc.



Prof. Ing. ANTONIN KOVÁČIK, DrSc., co-founder of our journal (formerly “Genetics and Plant Breeding”; “Genetika a Šlechtění” in Czech), passed away on June 17, 2008. He was the first editor in chief (till 1990) and member of the Editorial Board until 1999.

Prof. A. KOVÁČIK was born on December 15, 1928, at the village Bohúňovo in eastern Slovakia. After graduating at the University of Agriculture at Košice in 1953 and a temporary job as a research assistant at the Agricultural University at Nitra, he moved in 1954 to the Crop Research Institute (former Research Institute of Crop Production) in Prague-Ruzyně, where he devoted his time to research on genetics and plant breeding. In 1970 he became director of this institute, until 1990. He was also engaged in lecturing plant genetics and biometrics at the University of Agriculture at Prague-Suchbát, where he first became head of department and in 1975 professor of genetics and plant breeding. His activities in these

positions considerably influenced the genetic research and plant breeding in the Czech Republic and the former Czechoslovakia.

Prof. KOVÁČIK was also an internationally recognized expert for the improvement of agriculture and plant breeding and member of scientific organizations on national and international level. For more than 20 years he was coordinator of European Research, Subsection of Applied Genetics, within FAO, and member of the IBPGR Commission for the Germplasm Collection of Oil Crops.

His scientific interests concentrated on oil crops, especially sunflower, and covered a wide range of topics such as karyotype studies, methods of pollen culture, induction of genetic variability by means of colchicine and gamma rays, effects of the light spectrum on metabolism and ontogeny, nuclear and cytoplasmic male sterility, breeding for high oil content of desirable quality and important morphologic properties and studies on the effects of environmental variability on important sunflower traits. He published a large number of scientific and technical papers, mainly in national journals, and several textbooks, that were very appreciated by students and researchers. Prof. KOVÁČIK devoted almost all his life to teaching and scientific work on sunflower and his activities considerably contributed to the present extent of sunflower growing in the Czech and Slovak Republics. The Crop Research Institute benefited much in its scientific and technical activities from the leadership of Prof. KOVÁČIK and many students were inspired by him to tackle new scientific problems not only theoretically but also from practical aspects. Long live his memory.

Selected important publications

(1) Journals

KOVÁČIK A., SKALSKÁ R. (1968): The influence of moisture in sunflower seeds on the reaction to acute gamma radiation (Co^{60}). *Genetika a Šlechtění*, 4: 109–113.

KOVÁČIK A., SKALSKÁ R. (1969): The influence of the pericarp after acute gamma irradiation of achenes on the radiosensitivity of sunflowers. *Genetika a Šlechtění*, 5: 271–276.

- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1972): The specification of the method of the biotest prognosis (*Helianthus annuus* L.). Rostlinná Výroba, **18**: 649–657.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1972): The proportion of the variability component caused by the environment and the correlations of economically important properties and characters of the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.). Scientia Agriculturae Bohemoslovaca, **4**: 249–261.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1972): Combining ability and prediction of heterosis in sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.). Scientia Agriculturae Bohemoslovaca, **4**: 263–273.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1973): The pollen sterility in sunflower, *Helianthus annuus* L. Genetika a Šlechtění, **9**: 173–180.
- KOVÁČIK A., VLČKOVÁ V. (1988): Comparative study of embryogenesis in sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.). Genetika a Šlechtění, **24**: 271–280.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1990): Results of inheritance evaluation of agronomically important traits in sunflower. Helia, **13**: 41–46.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V. (1992): Analysis of the results of FAO trials with sunflower hybrids in the ČSFR. Helia, **15**: 97–108.
- KOVÁČIK A., ŠKALOUD V., VRABEC J. (1993): Yield and oil production potential of sunflower hybrids tested in the Czech Republic. Rostlinná Výroba, **39**: 429–435.
- ŠKALOUD V., KOVÁČIK A. (1994): Findings on sunflower self-fertility in connection with line hybridization. Helia, **17**: 13–20.
- ŠKALOUD V., KOVÁČIK A. (1996): Evaluation of self-fertility in sunflower lines. Genetika a Šlechtění, **32**: 265–274.

(2) Books

- KOVÁČIK A. *et al.* (1976): Actual Questions of Genetics in Plant Breeding. SZN, Prague. (in Czech)
- KOVÁČIK A. *et al.* (1983): Plant Genetics. SZN, Prague. (in Czech)
- KOVÁČIK A. (2000): Sunflower. Agrospoj, Prague. (in Czech)

(3) Textbooks and other publications

- Textbook (1978): Field experiments. SPN, Prague. (in Czech)
- Textbook (1984): Biometrics. Videopress MON, Prague. (in Czech)
- Applied methodology (1997): Biology and Technology of Sunflower Growing. Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, Prague. (in Czech)

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