

OBITUARY NOTICE

Prof. Ing. ZDENĚK ČAČA, DrSc. (1927–2005)



Prof. ČAČA was born into a farmer's family near Brno. During his studies at the Agricultural University in Brno (now Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry) he became interested in plant pathology. The key person who inspired him to this career was prof. EDUARD BAUDYŠ, one of the classics of this discipline in the Czech Lands. After ZDENĚK ČAČA graduated at the university in 1953, he taught at an agricultural school in Kojetín. Several years later he returned to prof. BAUDYŠ at the university, in 1959 he defended his CSc. Thesis, and was awarded the degree of Candidate of Sciences (PhD). In January 1960 he became a staff member of the Department of Agricultural Entomology and Phytopathology acting as the lecturer of Agricultural Phytopathology.

In 1965 he became docent (Associate Professor) and in 1985 he was appointed Full Professor of Phytopathology and Plant Protection. In 1970 he became Head of the Department of Agricultural Entomology and Phytopathology. His role as the chairman of the board for the defence of doctoral dissertations was highly commendable. In those politically complex years his department was the only place in the Czechoslovak Republic where we were able to obtain a PhD degree in phytopathology and plant protection, and many of us are very much indebted to him that we were able to continue our profession. He was also Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy.

His scientific interests were very broad, but his main research projects were focused on the problems of the incidence and control of fungal diseases of irrigated crops. In 1984 he defended his scientific work entitled *Biology of economically important phytopathogenic microorganisms of the main agricultural crops under irrigation* and was awarded the degree Doctor of Science (DrSc.). During his career he was a member of scientific boards of the university and several research institutes. He was always ready to give advice to anybody with practical problems. All his professional life he was in living contact with agricultural practice. As a result, his work shared the problems that reflected the current needs of agriculture. He published more than 150 scientific and popular papers including books. We are very thankful for his work on the editorial board of *Ochrana rostlin* (Plant Protection), where he served as its head from 1987 to 1990.

Prof. ČAČA was a man of keen interest in plant pathology, who passed his everlasting enthusiasm onto the younger generation. He had the distinction of supervising many students in their thesis work, as well as many doctorate students in their research. He belonged to the generation of phytopathologists who made a substantial contribution to the development of applied plant protection, as well as to the phytopathological research and education in the former Czechoslovak Republic.

Karel Veverka (Brno)