

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Obituary Professor Vladimír Táborský



With regret, we have to inform you that professor Vladimír Táborský, a former member of the Plant Protection Science editorial board, passed away May 17, 2020.

Prof. Táborský was born May 26, 1931 in a farmer's family. That is why he probably started to study agriculture, first at the Vocational School of Agriculture in Tábor and later at the University of Agriculture in Prague. He was one of the first graduates from the Plant Protection major at this University. After a short period at the Plant Protection Centre in Písek and teaching chemistry and plant protection in České Budějovice, he was appointed an assistant professor to the Plant Protection Department of the University of Agriculture in Prague. From 1978, he worked at the Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture of the same university. In 1980, he defended his dissertation for an associate professorship. Up to 1990, he mainly lectured in phytopharmacy, but also on the fundamentals of plant protection and phytopathology for foreign students at the Institute. In 1990, he became the head of the Plant Protection Department (Faculty of Agronomy) and, subsequently, he was appointed a full professor in 1991. In the early nineties, he was one of the initiators of launching the Plant Protection major for MSc. students at the Faculty of Agronomy. During his active working life, he supervised more than 280 undergraduate and postgraduate theses and 24 Ph.D. theses. His academic career came with the responsibilities of a lot of different functions, such as a member of both the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Agronomy and the University of Agriculture, chairman of the Academic Senate of the University, a member of the Scientific Committee for DrSc. Awarding at Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno and at the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, a member of the Scientific Board of the Crop Research Institute, Division of Plant Health in Prague and Vice-chairman of the Division of Plant Medicine of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences to mention just a few of them. From 1990 to 2006, prof. Táborský was a member of the Editorial Board of the Plant Protection Science journal. In 1996, he became one of founding members of the Czech Society for Plant Pathology and during the subsequent 11 years he served as its chairman. He was also active internationally. In 1971, he spent 6 months in the Netherlands at the IPO Wageningen. Later he undertook several missions in Vietnam, where he studied diseases and pests of *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* and other tropical crops. In 1988, he took part in the research of integrated protection of citrus and sugar cane in Cuba, and of ornamental plants in Zambia. Between the years 2001–2003, he was president of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology and, in 2002, he served as chairman of the scientific committee of its 6th Congress held in Prague.

Even after his late retirement in 2009, he stayed interested in plant protection and took part in different professional and scientific meetings.

He remained a humble and hard-working man all his life, appreciating fairness – at work and in everyday life. In addition to his work, he liked nature and sport activities. He skied very well and, in his youth, he led many courses for University students as a ski instructor.

We will miss prof. Táborský not only as an expert, but also as a friendly colleague and honest humble man.

Pavel Ryšánek, Jana Chrpová, Prague, Czech Republic