

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Entomogist RNDr. JOSEF ŠEDIVÝ Celebrates his Jubilee



On September 11 the scientific circles celebrated the 80th birthday of Doc. RNDr. JOSEF ŠEDIVÝ, DrSc., a distinguished worker of the Research Institute of Crop Production (VÚRV) in Prague-Ruzyně and a well-known Czech agricultural entomologist and ichneumonologist, who was born on 11th September 1925 into a farmer's family, in the village of Lišťany near the town of Louny. In 1945 he was enrolled at the Natural Sciences Faculty of the Charles University in Prague, where he concluded his studies in 1950, qualified to teach natural sciences and geography at secondary schools. He holds a doctor's degree in natural sciences (RNDr.).

While studying at university, he was interested in ecology and the bionomy of the insect pests of agricultural crops and the ways of protecting plants against them. On completing his studies he was initially engaged as an entomologist at the Hops Research Station in Žatec. In 1953 he commenced his employment as entomologist with the Research Institute of Crop Production in Prague-Ruzyně, where he remained up to the year 2004. He was appointed Head of the Department of Entomology in 1954 and later Head of the Phytomedicine Section. In 1960 he defended his candidate thesis to obtain the degree of Candidate of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (CSc.). In 1984 he qualified as Doctor of Sciences of Agriculture and Forestry (DrSc.). Following his habilitation at the University of Agriculture in Prague-Suchbátar in 1992, he became Associate Professor in the scientific discipline of Plant Protection. In 1987 he relinquished his post of Head of Plant Protection Department. He retired from employment in 2004.

His knowledge and experience in the broad spectrum of Plant Health Care are founded in his study of the pest species of insects, mites and nematodes. Dr ŠEDIVÝ's ecological approach to the solution of practical problems has made a substantial contribution to the excellent standard of Czech applied entomology. The benefit of his findings was particularly marked at the time of the Czech changeover in agriculture from small scale to large scale production. He worked out the principles for prognosing outbreaks and determining the economical damage thresholds of many important insect pests, which facilitated the use of specially directed chemical treatment and other means of protection. He also studied the nutritional relationships of potato nematode, as well as of insect pests, to various agricultural crops, and established the principles for seeking out the host plants of insect pests. This helped to clarify the diversity in species of pests of field crops and fruit in orchards within the system of small scale and large scale production of crops.

Dr ŠEDIVÝ's second sphere of interest is the study of parasitoids of the important family of Ichneumonidae. He is one of the few European experts with knowledge of this numerically very large group of parasitic Hymenoptera and he also has extensive knowledge of the Czech fauna of ichneumon flies. In addition to his work on the taxonomy and faunistics of Ichneumonidae, he also investigated the host relationship of the ichneumon flies in agricultural systems and in forestry. He identified a large quantity of material concerning these insects for both Czech workplaces and those of other countries, and described 18 new species of ichneumon flies in both Europe and Asia.

Alongside his activities in the research institute, he has also been active in a number of Czech and international institutions as a member of working groups in phytomedicine, scientific boards of several research institutes, the council for the defence of the CSc. and DrSc. titles, branch boards for the PhD studies of Phytomedicine of the Faculty of Agronomy, Czech University of Agriculture

in Prague, and editorial boards of scientific and specialised periodicals. For one year he was also a member of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Science Board, and for more than ten years Chairman of the Academy's Phytomedicine Division.

He is an honorary member of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Science, the Entomological Society attached to the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and the Czech Phytomedicin Society and the Scientific Board of Plant Medicine, Research Institute of Crop Production, Prague-Ruzyně. He has also shared in the teaching of agricultural entomology, in educational programmes for MSc in Phytomedicine at the Faculty of Agronomy, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, and at the Faculty of Agronomy in České Budějovice. During the nineties of the last century up to the year 2002 he chaired the Committee for the State Final Exams in Phytomedicine.

Dr Šedivý's wideranging interest in applied and systematic entomology resulted in numerous publications. He has published more than 350 works of which 122 are scientific. He is author or co-author of 40 books and brochures. He was also Scientific Editor of the tri-lingual International Atlas of Plant Diseases and Pests (cereals, oil seed crops, pulse crops and sugar beet) series as well as author or co-author of several chapters of this publication. He has participated in many international congresses, conferences, symposia and scientific gatherings, at which he reported on his results in research into agricultural entomology and the taxonomy of ichneumon flies.

Although Dr ŠEDIVÝ retired in 2004, he still maintains contact with his "maternal" workplace, the editorial board of Plant Protection Science, and his former colleagues from the area of Phytomedicine.

On behalf of his work colleagues, friends and acquaintances we wish our celebrant good health, a constant influx of spiritual strength for his work and also that he should maintain his vitality for future gatherings of the specialised community of phytomedicine practitioners.

Vladimír Táborský (Prague)