

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Doc Dr Alois Honěk, CSc. – seventy



For those who know Alois Honěk personally it is hard to believe that he celebrated his 70th birthday last year, as he has never stopped emitting and sharing his youthful enthusiasm and energy. His fitness and denial of passing time are manifested not only in performing labour-demanding field experiments by himself, but also by regularly hiking in the mountains and his cycling to the institute every day, irrespective of weather or time of the year. Scientists who know Alois Honěk from his published work are frequently amazed by his annual scientific productivity, which is not declining with age ... just the opposite.

Alois Honěk is one of the most influential and productive Czech insect and agricultural ecologists of his generations. His work is enormously respected and widely and extensively cited, mainly because of his great ability to address problems that are of interest to both applied and basic scientists.

Below I shall briefly review some of the key events in his outstanding scientific career. In 1969, Alois Honěk graduated as a biologist and chemist from Charles University in Prague. Later, based on his dissertation entitled “Effects of agroecological factors on aphid predators”, he obtained the equivalent of a Ph.D. degree from the Agriculture University, Prague. In 2008 he was awarded the title Assoc. Professor by the Czech University of Life Sciences. Following his university studies, he first worked in the Institute of Entomology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science, Prague, Czech Republic (1968–1971) and the Research Institute of Food Industry (1972 – 3 months). Subsequently, he was appointed as senior scientist and head of the ecological entomology team at the Crop Research Institute, Prague, Czech Republic (1972–2015). He also spent part of his fruitful career abroad; namely at the All Union Plant Protection Institute (Leningrad, Soviet union – 1977) and French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA – Antibes, France; 1992–1993 and 1998–1999). Gradually he has become an internationally respected referee and member of the editorial boards of the following journals: *Plant Protection Science*, *European Journal of Entomology*, *Entomophaga*, *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* and *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemicae*. Reviewing his curriculum vitae, it is impossible not to highlight his extensive teaching activities. He is an external teacher, supervisor of Ph.D.-students and a lecturer at the Faculty of Science at the Charles University (advanced course of Insect ecology) and at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.

How to briefly characterise Alois Honěk as a scientist? In my option he is a scientific Jack of all trades and master of all! He has covered not only a vast array of topics but has always addressed problems in depth. Among his broad research interests are arthropod ecophysiology (*Pyrrhocoris apterus* as the main model species), biology and ecology of cereal pests (Aphids) and their natural enemies (Coccinellidae), biology and ecology of the seed of weeds and their herbivore predators (Carabidae), polymorphism, evolution, thermal constants for arthropod development, etc. His achievements in the above mentioned fields are well demonstrated by extensive lists of publications that were recently reviewed and listed by HODEK and DIXON (2015). Since Alois Honěk and I have recently published a scientometric analysis of Czech plant protection (STEJSKAL & HONĚK 2015), I could not resist also making a similar short analysis of his publications. In 2014, according to HODEK and DIXON (2015), Alois Honěk had published 219 original scientific

The colour photo of A. Honěk was taken by Pavel Saska (Crop Research Research Institute, Prague).

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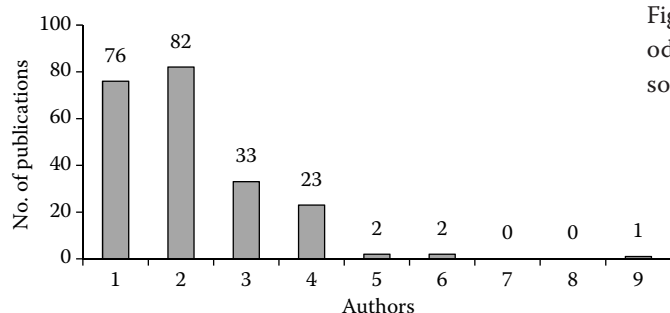


Figure 1. Publications ($N = 219$) of Alois Honěk in the period 1969–2014 (for the full list see HODEK & DIXON 2015) sorted according the number of authors per publication

contributions (152 of them with IF) and two books (HODEK & HONĚK 1996; HODEK *et al.* 2012). What is exceptional about his publications record is that of the total number of papers Alois Honěk has published he is the sole author of 76 (34.7%) and the first author of 137 (62.6%) (Figure 1). As already mentioned, it is not only the number of papers but also their citation by the scientific community that is so impressive. In 2015 his personal SCI statistics had reached 2603 and 2996 citations, without and with self-citations, respectively. According to SCI-WoK Citation Report Database (accessed Dec 3, 2015) his most cited papers were the ones on intraspecific variation in body size and fecundity in insects (HONĚK 1993 – with 702 citations), and thermal time concepts and their value in studies on the ecology of poikilothermic invertebrates (TRUDGILL & HONĚK *et al.* 2005 – with 190 citations). The resulting Hirsch index ($hi = 24$) for 2015 ranks Alois Honěk as outstanding among agricultural entomologists and ecologists.

On behalf of the editorial board of Plant Protection Science, of which Alois Honěk is a long term and active member, I wish him a happy 70th birthday, continuing good health and further success in his research activities.

References

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