

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Professor VLADIMÍR TÁBORSKÝ, MSc., PhD., Octogenarian

Prof. VLADIMÍR TÁBORSKÝ was born on May 26, 1931 to a farmer's family of Černý Dub, in the České Budějovice (Bohemian Budweis) district. He passed the GCE examination with honours at the Vocational School of Agriculture at Tábor and graduated with honours from the Faculty of Agronomy of the Prague School of Agriculture, majoring in Plant Protection. He worked shortly at the Plant Protection Centre of Písek district. Thence he transferred to the Vocational School at České Budějovice to teach chemistry and plant protection. In 1961 he was admitted as Assistant Professor to the Plant Protection Department of the Prague School of Agriculture. In 1968 he defended the doctoral thesis in virology entitled "Opportunities for the protection of beans from viral mosaic attack". Having submitted his dissertation for associate professorship in 1978, dealing with the "Pathogenesis of viral diseases in plants", he defended it in 1980 and was appointed Associate Professor in Temperate and Tropical Plant Protection in 1982. Since 1978 he was in the Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture of the Prague School of Agriculture for 11 years. Since 1974 he independently lectured to foreign students on phytopharmacy and phytotechnology, on phytopathology to students specializing in the agriculture of tropics and subtropics, and also on the fundamentals of plant protection. In 1990–2000 he was Head of the Department of Plant Protection at the Faculty of Agronomy and in 1991 was appointed Full Professor. In 1993 he laid the foundations for specialized studies to take the MSc. degree in "plant protection", at present plant health, where he introduced general and special phytopathology, general and special entomology, acarology, nematology, herbology, chemical protection in regulations in plant protection, and biological methods of plant protection. During the Tempus Phare Individual Mobility in UK, the University of Bristol, University of Bath, and the Long Ashton Research Station he visited the MSc. course in Crop Protection. Prof. TÁBORSKÝ was supervising more than 280 students in their thesis work, and 24 graduate students in their doctoral theses (Ph.D.). Thirty six graduates led by Professor TÁBORSKÝ defended their final reports, focused on the solution of current problems of plant protection and on the introduction of up-to-date diagnostic techniques.

He has also been highly productive in his professional and scientific activities abroad. In 1971 he undertook a six-month postdoctoral research fellowship in the Research Institute of Plant Protection (IPO) at Wageningen in the Netherlands, in virology. Starting in 1979 he took part in research and development in Vietnam, where he worked in five missions covering a period which extended over more than 14 months. He worked in the area of the diagnosis of diseases and pests of tropical *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*, the coffee plant, hevea, and pepper plant. In 1988 in Cuba he took part in research into the integrated protection of citrus plants and sugar cane. In 1988 as a member of the Czechoslovak team, he took part in the UNDP/UNIDO project implemented in Zambia in 1989 (ZIMCO).

Over the years of work at faculty at the Prague School of Agriculture, Professor TÁBORSKÝ was member of the Ph.D. Awarding Committee for the specialisation in Phytopathology in Agriculture and Forestry, member of the Scientific Board of the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, member of the Faculty of Agronomy Scientific Board from 1990 to 2000, Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Czech University of Agriculture from 1994 to 1996, Chairman of Experts Committee for Graduate Students of Plant Medicine from 1993 to 2000, Chairman of the Scientific Board for PhD. studies in Agriculture and Forest Phytopathology and Plant Protection from 1990 to 2004, member of the Scientific Board for Awarding DrSc Degrees in Agriculture and Forest Phytopathology and Plant Protection at Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Board for Awarding DrSc Degrees in Agriculture and Forest Phytopathology and Plant Protection at the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, member of the Scientific Board of the Crop Research

Institute – Division of Plant Health at Prague-Ruzyně from 1990 to 2009, member of the Scientific Board of the Tropical and Subtropical Institute at the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague from 1978 to 2000, member of the Advisory Board of Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic for Plant Protection, Vice-Chairman of the Division of Plant medicine of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences, member of the Czechoslovak Society of Microbiology, member of the New South Wales Entomology Society – Australia.

Together with Ass. Prof. JAROSLAV POLÁK, Prof. TÁBORSKÝ founded the Czech Society for Plant Pathology (CSPP) in 1996. He was Chairman of the CSPP from 1996 to 2007 and President of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology (2001–2003). He was chairman of the Scientific Committee of the 6th Congress of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology organized in Prague in 2002. Prof. TÁBORSKÝ was a member of the Editorial Board of Plant Protection Science from 1990 to 2006.

We wish him lots of vigour and energy in his further professional activities, good health and happiness in his private life.

PAVEL RYŠÁNEK AND JAROSLAV POLÁK (PRAGUE)