

OBITUARY NOTICE

Dr JENS JÜRGEN NIELSEN (1927–2013)



Dr JENS NIELSEN a member of the editorial board of the journal *Plant Protection Science* (from 1994 to 2010) passed away on February 4, 2013 in Winnipeg at the age of 85 years. He was born in Bleckede/Elbe, Germany. After the World War II he started to work in agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein and in 1951–1952 he attended the Agricultural College in Celle. In 1960, he graduated from the Institute of Plant Pathology at the University of Göttingen as Doctor of Science in Agriculture. After graduation he was awarded a Research Fellowship from the German Research Council and a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Research Council of Canada. In 1960–1962 he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Station, Agriculture Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1963 he came back to Winnipeg and got a permanent position of a research scientist. Most of his scientific career was devoted to the research of cereal smuts, particularly loose smut of barley wheat and oats. E.g., he carried out hybridisation studies of *Ustilago avenae*, *U. kolleri*, *U. nuda*, and *U. nigra* to study their relationship and he also investigated relationship between cereal smuts and smuts on wild grasses. Dr JENS NIELSEN reached excellent scientific results highly estimated by smut specialists worldwide. In Canada he was awarded the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada Gold Medal as part of the Winnipeg Bread Wheat Research Team in 1983. In 1989 he became a fellow of the Canadian Phytopathological Society. His practical experience in farm management including plant protection helped him to understand the needs of farmers and to solve topical issues in the integrated control of smut fungi. Another important activity was search for sources of resistance leading to a collection of sources of resistance available to plant breeders. He also analysed virulence in the population of smuts in Canada and developed a unique collection of physiologic races of smut species. In this way he participated in the breeding of smut resistant cultivars. Annually or periodically he supplied farmers and agricultural advisors with reports on the efficacy of seed treatment to control smut of wheat and oats and other important data for practice. He published many papers in leading scientific journals, had many presentations at conferences and seminars and was active as advisor of postdoctoral fellows and adjunct professor at the University of Manitoba. Dr JENS NIELSEN retired from the Research Station, Agriculture Canada, Winnipeg in 1992.

Because of his friendly character Dr JENS NIELSEN developed many scientific contacts with smut specialists worldwide that often turned to long lasting personal friendships. His contacts with the Crop Research Institute in Prague-Ruzyně started in a similar way. He was active as an advisor in a Czech grant project on wheat bunt of the Crop Research Institute and was invited by the head of the editorial board of that time to join the editorial board of the journal *Plant Protection Science*. In the first years after the “velvet revolution” Dr JENS NIELSEN substantially contributed to the work of the editorial board. Together with his wife Barbara he used to carry out linguistic amendments of the papers to be published in the journal. Soon he extended his advice to all scientists of the Crop Research Institute who asked for it. His help was not restricted to linguistic amendments. By his critical remarks he also helped to improve papers submitted for publication. His selflessness and sense of humour and also his hobbies such as traveling, gardening and boating attracted many friends to him. The head and members of the editorial board of the journal *Plant Protection Science* and all his friends remain grateful for his help and friendship. He will be missed by all of us.

Dr. PAVEL BARTOŠ, Prof. ALEŠ LEBEDA