IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Jiří Lom October 24, 1931 – April 9, 2010

Dr. Jiří Lom died after a short illness in Prague on 9 April 2010, at an age of 78. Thus was lost one of the world's leading protistologists and fish parasitologists.

Jiří Lom started his scientific career in the 1950s at the Charles University in Prague as an outstanding student of Professor Otto Jirovec, the eminent Czech protozoologist and parasitologist. Jiří Lom's life-long research interest in parasitic Protista, which was to continue for nearly 60 years, was defined and established during this period. The scope of Jiří Lom's studies was broad, including morphology, taxonomy, life-cycles and pathogenicity of fish-infecting ciliates, blood flagellates, Coccidia, Microsporidia and, in the later years of his life, Myxozoa. Jiří Lom was especially interested in the cell structure of these organisms, as revealed by his beloved and masterly commanded electron microscopy. Bizarre shapes of fine structure pleased his aesthetic sense and became a life-long fascination that resulted in highly-acclaimed classic studies. In recent years, Jiří Lom eagerly kept track of the progress made in molecular biology of Microsporidia and Myxozoa, the organisms in which he was the world's foremost authority. The more applied aspects of his broad scientific interests are represented by his numerous comprehensive studies of protistan and myxozoan diseases of both freshwater and marine fishes.

Jiří Lom was a prolific writer. He published almost three hundred original papers, books and monograph chapters. A selective list of his publications can be found in an earlier volume of this journal (*Folia Parasitol.*, Vol. 53, pp. 317–318, 2006). Publications dating from the last years of his life, reflecting his life-long work, vast knowledge and unfailing activity, include a highly-cited comprehensive review on Myxozoa (*Folia Parasitol.*, Vol. 53, pp. 1–36, 2006) and the monograph "Histopathology of Protistan and Myxozoan Infection of Fishes" (Academia, Prague, 2007) (both co-authored with Iva Dyková). Jiří Lom made an impressive, solid and lasting contribution to the world of Science which is attested to, among other, by a high and steady publication citation rate that ranks him among the most-cited Czech biologists.

His scientific eminence was internationally recognised by memberships on the editorial boards of journals such as the following: in Germany, *Archiv für Protistenkunde*, *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, *European Journal of Protistology*, *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*; in the United States, *Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology*, *Journal of Parasitology*; in France, *Protistologica*; in the United Kingdom, *Journal of Fish Diseases*, *Systematic Parasitology*; in Poland, *Acta Protozoologica*. He held prestigious positions and/or honorary memberships in international organisations and societies such as: Society of Protozoologists (Vice-President in 1968–1969 and 1979–1980); Honours Committee of Society of Protozoologists; International Commission on Protozoology; American Society of Parasitologists; Groupement des Protistologues de la Langue Française; European Association of Fish Pathologists. Numerous honours reflecting his outstanding achievements include membership in the "necktie club" of the world's most influen-

tial protozoologists and, at the national level, membership in the Learned Society of the Czech Republic.

The career of Jiří Lom was closely connected with the Institute of Parasitology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (formerly, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences) at České Budějovice (earlier, Prague). In 1990 he was elected director. In his four-year term in office, in turbulent times for the community and for Science in the country, he made tremendous efforts to restructure the Institute, coping with the reduced budget but taking steps towards improvement of scientific output of the consolidated research teams, and establishing wide contacts between the Institute and scientific institutions and associations abroad. Last but not least, in the early 1990s he injected new life into *Folia Parasitologica* and established it as a truly international journal of which he served as dedicated Editor-in-Chief for 11 years.

Those who had the privilege to know Jiří Lom will always remember him not only as an eminent scientist but also as a modest man who inspired many through his love for research, was a pleasure to work with and able to engage in intellectual conversations on a wide range of topics. He was gentle, friendly and understanding, with a keen but quiet and delightful sense of humour. He will be missed as a friend respected and beloved by all.

Vladimír Bukva and Libor Grubhoffer