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MVDr. Ondrej Mačička, C.Sc., 19. 7. 1917—2. 10. 1976

At the moment when we were preparing an article observing his 60th anniversary, we received the sad news that MVDr Ondrej Mačička, C. Sc., Director of the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (further SAV), one of the leading

Czechoslovak parasitologists, medical zoologist and veterinarians, outstanding organizer, talented scientist, a sincere and kind man died suddenly on October 2, 1976.

He was born in a farmer's family at Veľký Bysterec (district of Dolný Kubín) in northern Slovakia. His studies at the Veterinary College in Brno were interrupted by the nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, and he completed them after the war in 1946. It was during his studies at Veterinary College in Brno that O. Mačička started his scientific career, acting as assistant of the well-known pathologist Prof. Dr. V. Jelínek. His papers dealing with diagnosis of leptospires in domestic animals and his experimental work on *Trypanosoma equiperdum* belong to this period. During 1951 and 1952 he participated in the complex research on tick-borne encephalitis epidemic at Rožňava, which later proved to be first scientically evaluated epidemic propagated by the milk of pastured domestic animals (goats).

This team work determined further direction of Dr. Mačička's scientific activities. He always knew how to combine the work of parasitologist and acarologist with that of epizootologist and veterinarian. His most extensive scientific publications are devoted to the distribution of ticks, their bionomy, relationship to hosts, particularly to domestic animals, and to the possible tick control in free nature and on cattle. In his papers dealing with ticks *Dermacentor marginatus* and *D. reticulatus* he was the first, in collaboration with the workers of the Institute of Parasitology and Institute of Virology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (ČSAV), to give a survey of the bionomy, development and economic importance of these two important parasites infesting pastured farm animals and wild ruminants. Dr. Mačička's principal contribution to the knowledge of bionomy of the tick *Haemaphysalis inermis* in Europe was published in the volume Čs. parasitologie in 1958. Mačička's papers have served as a source of information to his followers to date.

Another wide range of Dr. Mačička's activities is represented by his publications concerned with the research of natural foci of diseases, begun by the expedition organized for the elucidation of the Rožňava epidemic in 1951. Since this first complex expedition on the research of tick-borne encephalitis, carried out by a team of Czech and Slovak physicians and biologists, who were later awarded the Klement Gottwald Prize in 1955 for the results achieved. Dr. Mačička took part in all subsequent complex expeditions organized by the Institute of Virology and Institute of Parasitology ČSAV in Slovakia (environs of Košice, Ždiar n/H., Žitný ostrov, Zlaté Moravce, Topoľčianky etc.). With great resourcefulness he organized complicated field investigations and experiments by infecting pastured farm animals both experimentally and naturally, and thus prepared exact research material for further scientific assessment. Gradually this work helped Czechoslovak science achieve important priorities in the research of natural focality of diseases caused by viruses.

In 1957 he participated in expeditions organized for the research of natural focality of diseases in northern Yugoslavia (Kamniške Alpe) and in Bulgaria (environs of the village Iskra, in the region of Plovdiv).

Dr. Mačička was very active in organizing labour- and time-consuming field research of natural foci of diseases. This activity was highly appreciated by the founder of the theory on natural focality of diseases, Academician J. N. Pavlovsky in the USSR, where Dr. Mačička had many prominent scientific friends.

Dr. Mačička exerted great efforts to test the tick control methods used in pastures: agrotechnical measures, preventive tick eradication on cattle, aircraft dusting etc. This