

The anniversary of RNDr Božena Kotrlá-Erhardová, D.Sc.

RNDr Božena Kotrlá-Erhardová, D. Sc., senior scientist of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, whose works on parasites of rodents, sheep and wild ruminants are renowned not only in Europe, but have become a valuable contribution to the world parasitology, ranks among the prominent Czechoslovak parasitologists.

She began her professional career thirty years ago as a protozoologist, studying artificially induced parasitism of free-living protozoans. Due to this task, allotted her by her University teacher Prof. Dr. O. Jírovec, the research of protozoans in rodents received much of her attention in later years. Particularly notable were her findings of *Toxoplasma*-like organisms in the species *Clethrionomys glareolus*, and of gregarines in mites.

Along with the development of studies on natural focality of diseases in the territory of Czechoslovakia, headed by Dr. B. Rosický, her interest was attracted to multiple investigations of helminths of small mammals. In a number of papers she presented the results of her studies on the helminth fauna in Czechoslovakia, among which the extensive treatise entitled "Parasitic worms of rodents in Czechoslovakia" (Čs. parazitologie 5, 1: 27—103, 1958) has become a fundamental source of knowledge on parasitic worms in Central Europe. Numerous helminthologists in their later works followed the line of this publication.

Of utmost importance to the veterinary service in the post-war years were the parasitological examinations of imported sheep and investigations of pastures as a potential source

of helminth invasions of pastured cattle. Dr. Kotrlá-Erhardová took an active part in these studies and published her results in fundamental works dealing with life histories, specificity and ecology of helminths occurring on pastures. Her studies on helminths of sheep are summed up in the books "Parasites of sheep" (in co-authorship with Dr. B. Ryšavý) and "Veterinary antiparasitics" (in co-authorship with Dr. K. Müller).



For many years her investigations have been also devoted to taxonomy, life cycles and ecology of helminths in wild ruminants. She focused her attention primarily on Cervidae. She monographed the fluke *Fascioloides magna* imported to Europe from North America and elucidated the conditions of this parasite's existence in the new environment. The book "Diseases of Game Animals" (in co-authorship with A. Kotrlý, M. Páv and B. Ryšavý) reached its second edition.

A number of her works have directly resulted from veterinary practice. They are concerned with the survival and occurrence of helminths in pastures, with the control of intermediate hosts of helminths, application of anthelmintic preparations with the transfer of parasitic worms among different species of ruminants etc. As sole author or co-author she published a total of 90 scientific works, among which five are in book form, and numerous popular-scientific articles.

Of great value was her active participation in the parasitological expedition to Albania in 1958, headed by B. Rosický. On the basis of obtained materials Dr. Kotrlá-Erhardová and her associates investigated the helminth fauna of rodents, domestic animals and dealt with helminthiases of children under school age. (Čs. parazitol 7; 1960.) Together with a number of distinguished European parasitologists she was invited to elaborate the parasitological "Merkblatt über den Leberegel" and "Merkblatt über den Rinderlungenworm" (Berlin 1963).

Dr. Kotrlá-Erhardová was born on October 12, 1927 in Uhříněves. After completing her secondary school education she studied between 1946 and 1951 at the Natural History Faculty of the Charles University in Prague where she received her RNDr degree. Since 1950 to date she has been working as senior scientist at the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1958 she was granted her Candidate of biological sciences degree and ten years later she submitted her doctoral thesis and was awarded her Doctor of Sciences degree, which had a great positive response in professional circles.

The Editorial Board of *Folia parasitologica* wishes Dr. Kotrlá-Erhardová good health, much success and happiness in her work in the coming years, for the benefit of further advancement of parasitology, for the benefit of public health and health of domestic and game animals, protecting them against invasions of parasites.

Prof. Dr. B. Rosický, D.Sc.