

50th birthday of RNDr. Vladimír Černý, CSc. and 25 years of his scientific career



RNDr. Vladimír Černý, CSc., one of the outstanding Czechoslovak medical entomologists and parasitologists, a long-time scientific worker of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and Assistant Editor of *Folia parasitologica* celebrated his 50th birthday and 25 years of scientific career this summer.

Dr. V. Černý was born on August 24, 1928 at Olšany, district of Kladno. In 1947 he completed his secondary school education in Prague and graduated from the Natural Sciences Faculty, Charles University, receiving his RNDr degree in 1952. He completed his post-graduate studies for the Candidate of biological sciences degree in 1956. Since that year up to the present he has been employed as scientific worker by the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Dr. Černý's main interest is ixodology. In this field he published over 100 original scientific papers as sole author or co-author. Since his postgraduate studies supervised by B. Rosický, he has been his closest co-worker in the research of ticks and natural focus diseases transmitted by them. In his studies on ticks he was mainly concerned with taxonomy, etiology and ecology of the common tick and by several papers contributed to the knowledge of its medical importance. With co-authors he made outstanding contributions to the monographs on species of the genus *Dermacentor* in Czechoslovakia, and in a comprehensive treatise summed up to present knowledge on the tick fauna of Czechoslovakia (Černý V.: The tick fauna of Czechoslovakia. *Folia parasit.* (Praha) 19: 87-92,

1972). His ixodologic activities also took him to the Balkan Peninsula where the expeditions of the Institute of Parasitology headed by B. Rosický collected tick materials. His papers on ticks of Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia (with D. Tovornik) brought him recognition as European specialist in this group. Lately he has been working in a team of scientists investigating the influence of external factors on the distribution of ticks in different biotopes.

He could also apply his rich experience during his work in Cuba where he treated the tick fauna from up-to-date taxonomic aspects. (Černý V.: The tick fauna of Cuba. *Folia parasit.* (Praha) 16: 279-284, 1969), described a new subgenus of soft ticks *Parantricola*, a new subgenus of hard ticks *Alloixodes* and elucidated epizootological importance of some species. Recently most of his time has been devoted to the study of tick material obtained by Dr. Daniel during the mountaineering expeditions to the Hindu Kush organized by the Czechoslovak Union of Physical Training in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

The tick research in Czechoslovakia was closely connected with the studies on their role as potential vectors of diseases of man and animals. As sole author or in co-authorship Dr. Černý published several papers on the phenology of *Ixodes ricinus* and possible prognosis of its density, and much credit is due to him for the discovery in central Europe of the northernmost occurrence of the Texas fever agent (Černý V., Liplich L., *Vet. čas.* 7: 160-164, 1958). This paper stimulated a similar research in the neighbouring countries. While studying haemosporidiasis of cattle and discovering *Theileria* in the red deer he greatly contributed to the knowledge on these veterinary problems.

Another group in which Dr. Černý has maintained a keen interest are feather mites (Sarcoptiformes, Analgoidea). Based on his knowledge of European fauna he treated the materials collected by himself in Cuba and by F. Lukoschus in Surinam. In this group he described several scores of new taxa. He has also dealt with other medically important groups such as lice, fleas, Hippoboscidae, Gamasoidea, control of pest insects etc.

Dr. Černý's erudition in theriology and ornithology is remarkable. He has contributed to the knowledge on the mammal fauna in Šumava and eastern Slovakia during investigations of the natural focus of hemorrhagic nephro-nephritis and studies on tick-borne encephalitis.

tis. He made full use of his ornithological knowledge while treating ectoparasites of birds published in the Fauna of ČSSR, Birds Vol. I and II, where he presented an erudite survey of bird ectoparasites from central Europe, unique in world literature.

His elaboration of keys to the above mentioned groups is also of highest quality. He has been a long-time author of the key to Ixodidae-Zecken in several latest editions of P. Brohmer: Fauna von Deutschland, Quelle & Meyer Verlag, Heidelberg. As one of the editors and authors he has participated in the publication of the series Key to the Fauna of ČSSR IV, 603 pp., Academia Praha 1971, where all Chelicerata occurring in this part of Europe have been dealt with to the level of genera, and in some groups to the level of species.

Up to the present Dr. Černý published 150 original scientific papers and nearly as many

popular-scientific articles and book reviews, making good use of his rich professional experience and vast knowledge of parasitological literature.

For his erudition and assiduity Dr. Černý is an esteemed member of editorial boards of scientific journals. Since 1962 he has been a member of the editorial board of *Acta entomologica bohemoslovaca* and since 1974 a member of the editorial council of *Angewandte Parasitologie*. During his scientific career he has held a number of scientific-organizational posts. He is a member of the team decorated with the order for Distinction in Labour.

The Editorial Board of *Folia parasitologica* and all his associates and friends wish Dr. Černý many happy returns of the day and much success in his work in the coming years.

Prof. Dr. B. Rosický D.Sc.