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50th birthday of Dr. Jiří Lom, D.Sc.

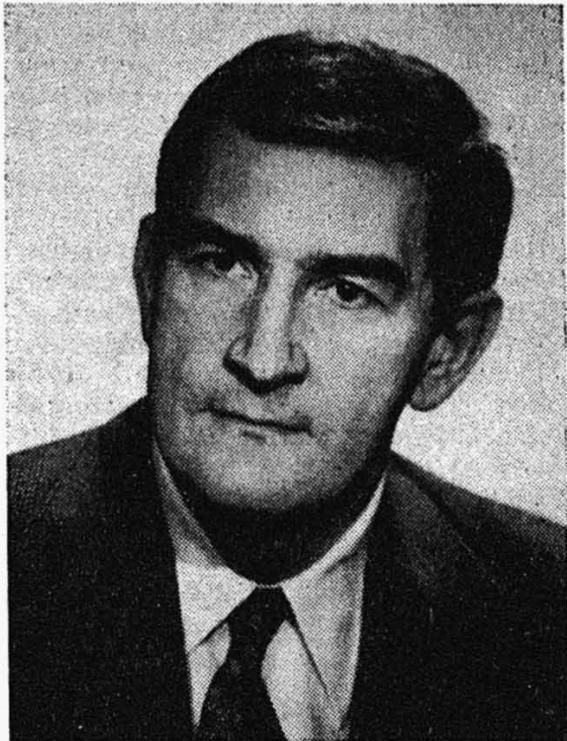
Dr. Jiří Lom, D.Sc., a prominent Czechoslovak parasitologist and protozoologist was born on 24th October 1931 in Prague as son of a professor known by his pioneering work in economy of agriculture. Already during his studies at the secondary school he showed an interest in nature, particularly in birds. Having passed the secondary, he enrolled the Faculty of Sciences of the Charles University in Prague which he finished in 1954. At that time he was engaged in the study of the biology of ciliates of the genera *Balantidium* and *Nyctotherus*. In 1958, Dr. Lom was awarded the scientific degree of C.Sc. (= Ph.D.) on the basis of his thesis "A study of parasitic ciliates of the order Astomata" and

16 years later he won the degree of D.Sc. for the thesis "Electron-optical study of protozoans infecting body surface of fishes".

He begun his scientific career as teaching assistant at the Department of Parasitology of the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University (1953—1954); then he started to work as a scientific worker in the newly established Protozoological Laboratory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Since the foundation of the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, into which the Protozoological Laboratory was included, Dr. Lom started to work in the Institute's Department of Protozoology. At the Institute of Parasitology,

Dr. Lom has served for many years as its scientific secretary and the head of the Department.

The topics studied by Dr. Lom were many and his results range him with the most outstanding world protozoologists of the present time. He has studied various important groups of Protozoa, particularly parasitic ciliates, their systematic position, morphology, functional ultrastructure and biology. Most of his research



endeavour was, however, devoted to protozoan parasites of fish. His papers dealing with parasitic, ectoparasitic and symphoriont species attracted a great attention. He studied their taxonomy, life cycles, functional morphological adaptations and relation to their hosts, namely mode of attachment in ectoparasitic species and pathogenicity. He elucidated the principles of ultrastructure and morphogenesis in myxozoa and he greatly contributed to the knowledge of fish microsporidia and blood flagellates. He authored or co-authored more than 160 scientific papers, among which those on the mode of sporoplasm extrusion, on stomatogenesis of peritrichs and on trichodinids became classical.

With Dr. Ergens he published the book "Causative agents of parasitic diseases of fish".

The results of Dr. Lom's studies were embodied in many distinguished protozoological and parasitological treatises and manuals by e.g., Bykhovsky, Bauer, Corliss, Grell, Hoffman, Levine, Reichenbach-Klinke, Sleigh, Sprague and Weiser. His international recognition is documented by the membership in editorial boards of Czechoslovak and foreign scientific journals as *Folia parasitologica* (Praha), *Archiv für Protistenkunde* (Jena), *Acta Protozoologica* (Warszawa), *Journal of Protozoology* (Urbana) and *Protistologica* (Paris). As a visiting scientist he was invited to work in France (1964), USA (1965—1966, 1969—1970), Canada (1968) and Cuba (1979) in addition to many short-term stays.

Dr. Lom worked as a member of the Organizing Committee of the First and Second International Congress of Protozoology (Prague 1961, London 1965). He chaired the sections at the International Congresses on Parasitology in Rome nad Warszawa and at the last International Congress of Zoology in Monaco. He served for two terms as the Vice-President of the Society of Protozoologists, in the International Commission on Protozoology and worked as the secretary of Czechoslovak-French protozoological conferences organized by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1968 and 1975. These and other activities show his contribution to the organization of the scientific life in protozoology embracing also the research of protozoan parasites of fish and at the same time indicate to what extent the Czechoslovak science has contributed to the development of protozoology as a branch of parasitology.

Dr. Lom is also active in the education of young protozoologists and in popularization of this scientific branch and participates in the organizational and scientific life of the Institute of Parasitology and scientific societies.

The editorial board of *Folia parasitologica* wishes his member to continue his activities for many years in favour of the development of parasitology and its use for the benefit of our society. *Ad multos annos!*

Academician B. Rosicky