

# THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMICIAN BOHUMÍR ROSICKÝ

Professor PhMr. RNDr. Bohumír Rosický DrSc., Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Parasitology, and Editor in Chief of *Folia parasitologica*, celebrates his 50th birth anniversary on April 18, 1972.

Prof. Rosický was born in Brno. While still a secondary school student, he developed a strong interest in biology, particularly entomology. By contrast to the majority of young entomologists collecting Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, Professor Rosický chose for his first collection one of the more difficult groups, Siphonaptera. His concentrated long-time study of this group introduced him to the subject of parasitology. During the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, he worked as a dispensary assistant. With the end of World War II he first studied pharmacology and, after obtaining his PhMr. degree, studied zoology at the Natural Sciences Faculty of the Charles University in Prague. During this period, Professor Rosický extended his scientific work to investigations on insect pests and was one of the first to study the use of insecticides in Czechoslovakia. In the years 1947—1950, he was in charge of the Laboratory for agricultural entomology and insecticides of the Czechoslovak Chemical Works. In 1950, he started work at the newly established Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, first being senior officer of the Department of Parasitology of the Biological Institute, and, from 1954, head of this department. This was the time, when he applied his comprehensive knowledge of parasitic insects and arthropods in research on the natural focality of diseases. He continued to develop on a scientific basis Pavlovsky's theory on the natural focality of diseases, and his confirmation of the validity of these even under conditions of a highly cultivated landscape ranks among the most important results of his scientific activities. Professor Rosický succeeded in arousing interest in research on natural focality of diseases in biological, veterinary and medical circles. This started extensive and truly complex research in Czechoslovakia and abroad leading to the solution of many aspects of the problem and its application to both medical and veterinary practice.

The consequent demonstration of ecological aspects in this research brought very valuable information on the structure of various types of natural foci of diseases, such as new knowledge on the circulation and reservoirs of the pathogenous agents and completely new knowledge on the bionomy and ecology of parasitic arthropods. These studies offered also new knowledge of some biological problems in general such as problems of the migration, adaptability and synanthropisation of animals. The scientific work of Professor Rosický did not remain within the boundaries of research work on natural foci of diseases. He published important papers on theriology establishing him among the founders of modern Czechoslovak theriology. Professor Rosický is one of the few Czechoslovak biologists, who have always based their work on ecology not only as

regards animals, but also plants. He succeeded in arousing the interest of botanists in parasitological work and this resulted in the solution of several problems from completely new aspects. Professor Rosický has also contributed largely to the development of international collaboration among parasitologists. As a pupil of academician Pavlovský he fostered a close cooperation with parasitologists not only in the field of natural focality of diseases and arachnoentomology but, as director of the Institute of Parasitology, he extended this collaboration to the fields of protozoology and helminthology. He organized a number of complex parasitological expeditions to foreign countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia) and it is due to him that research on the natural focality of diseases has been extended also to other socialist countries. It was he who deputed a number of research officers of the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences to work for extended periods in Cuba, Afghanistan and Egypt thus contributing to the development of parasitology in these countries.

The extent of his scientific activity is illustrated by his publications numbering 200, in addition to a number of books and many popular papers. Several of his books ("The fleas of Czechoslovakia", "Modern Insecticides" published together with Dr. Weiser, and "Insect Harmful to the Health of Man—Medical entomology") are works of lasting importance and still used as reference works on parasitic arthropods and on the natural focality of diseases. Also his other books such as 'Parasitologische Arbeitsmethoden', written together with Dr. H. Engelbrecht and published in the German Democratic Republic, are indispensable for every parasitologist. His numerous articles in journals and in the press popularizing science keep the public informed about the most recent results of scientific research, its progress and organisation. Professor Rosický devoted many of these articles to the popularization of Soviet science and that of other socialist countries.

When evaluating the activities of Professor Rosický it is impossible not to mention his curricular work. As soon as he joined the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences he devoted much of his time to the training of young scientific officers of the Biological Institute and later of the Institute of Parasitology. A number of his trainees have become well-known specialists working not only in the Academy, but also in many other institutions. It should be emphasized that he also trained many young Slovak scientists and thus contributed to the development of Slovak parasitology. He continues in his curricular work as Professor at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Komen-ský University in Bratislava.

One of Professor Rosický's outstanding virtues is his organizing ability. This capacity is reflected in the perfect organisation of many complex parasitological expeditions in Czechoslovakia and abroad and in the organisation of the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Most remarkable are his achievements in the organisation and development of our science within the framework of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. From 1960—1961 he was Secretary of the biological-medical section of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and, in 1962, he became a member of the presidium of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. From 1963 onwards he was Deputy Secretary General and has recently been elected Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. His activities as a scientist and organiser of science have been estimated very highly at home and abroad. In 1954 he was awarded the State prize of Klement Gottwald for demonstrating new laws governing the occurrence and distribution of disease vectors in natural foci. In 1960 he received the degree of Doctor of Biological Sciences and was elected Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, in 1970 ordinary member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. He is a member of numerous Czechoslovak and foreign scientific associations and editorial boards. It is impossible to give a full account of all

the activities of Professor Rosický. His scientific work covers a number of fields including faunistics, systematics, taxonomy, ecology, problems of the natural focality of diseases, theriology, applied entomology etc. Besides it he has done editorial work, the preparation of a list of Czech terms in zoology, participated in the drafting of research plans and in the organisation of conferences, symposia and congresses. Adding to these his activities as a pedagogue and organizer of science, we obtain the picture of a true representative of our science.

Today, when celebrating his 50th anniversary, we have to recall also his immense assiduity, persistence, activity and productivity of work. All Czechoslovak parasitologists, the workers of the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the members of the editorial board of *Folia parasitologica* wish academician Rosický many successful years of indomitable activity, good health and further important successes in his work and life.

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