

Biology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague. He received the degree of Candidate of Veterinary Sciences in 1962, in 1971 he habilitated in veterinary pathology and in 1972 became Associate Professor in pathology at the Veterinary University in Brno.

Dr. Blažek was first engaged in the diagnostics of infectious and non-infectious diseases of domestic and game animals and his interest was focused on the pathology of liver and central nervous system. At the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences he started to study the pathology of parasitoses (fascioloidosis, syngamosis and cerebrospinal nematodes). For many years he carried out pathological-anatomical and parasitological investigations for the Zoological Garden in Prague. Dr. Blažek has published his results in over 80 papers both in Czechoslovak and foreign papers. He participated in many symposia on diseases of zoo animals and two world veterinary congresses where he presented the results of his scientific activities.

In the last years he has developed a large-scale cooperation with Afghan specialists in the pathology of parasitic diseases of domestic animals during his three stays in Afghanistan.

Dr. Karel Blažek is much engaged also in his teaching activities as Associated Professor in veterinary pathology. He delivers lectures at the Veterinary University in Brno, University of Agriculture in Prague and Institute for Post-Graduate Training of Veterinarians in Pardubice.

Dr. Blažek's scientific papers dealing with the



pathology of parasitoses contribute to the development of Czechoslovak parasitology not only in elucidating the parasite-host relationship, but also in the possibility of the application of his results in praxis.

Czechoslovak parasitologists wish Dr. K. Blažek good health and much success in his personal and scientific life.

Dr. Z. Žďářská, C.Sc.

FOLIA PARASITOLOGICA (PRAHA) 23: 383-384, 1976.

50th birthday of Ing. Dr. František Gregor, C.Sc.

On October 7, 1976 Ing. Dr. František Gregor, C.Sc., staff member of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, outstanding medical entomologist, whose work, mainly in the research of synanthropic flies, has gained international recognition and response, reached the age of 50.

He was born in Brno and showed interest in entomology already in his childhood, under the guidance of his father, Professor F. Gregor who was one of prominent Czechoslovak entomologists with a view to Hymenoptera. After his father's tragic death in the last war as a victim of nazism, the decisive milestone in the professional career of the young František Gregor was the fact, that he found a favourable background in the Czechoslovak Society for Entomology where he was influenced and guided by the contact with the then outstanding represen-

tatives of Czechoslovak entomology, such as Šule, Šnoflák, Rozsypal, Miller, Kratochvíl and Farský. No less important fact for him at that time was the working environment of a team of young but professionally mature and advancing Brno entomologists (Obrel, Pelikán, Polovný).

After graduating from the Forestry Faculty of the College of Agriculture at Brno (1950) Gregor left for Prague where he became acquainted with the entomological school of Professor J. Komárek who, together with Prof. A. Pfeffer, another prominent representative of Czechoslovak entomology, directed his attention to the problems of entomology of forestry. F. Gregor studied and from an original viewpoint treated the bionomics of *Tortrix viridana* L., the important pest about which monographs have already been written earlier.

After finishing his postgraduate studies and receiving his candidate of biological sciences degree (1956) F. Gregor joined the staff of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. At his new post which he has been holding to date, he directed his attention to the ecological group of synanthropic and synbovine flies. Gregor's studies on flies were begun at the time when Czechoslovak dipterology after a long stagnation, received an impulse to a new powerful advancement and became one of most dynamic disciplines of Czechoslovak insect taxonomy and ecology. Gregor's work greatly contributed to this advancement. Gregor specifically and successfully combines his professional knowledge of a lepidopterologist and later dipterologist (taxonomist and ecologist) with an excellent graphic talent which facilitates him to express mainly in his colour illustrations a synthesis of scientific knowledge and adequate creative art. Due to the illustrations accompanying his papers he soon attracted attention abroad and became a sought-after illustrator (USSR, Federal Republic of Germany, USA, Denmark). Thanks to the understanding of the authorities of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences he has become the illustrator of the monumental work "Microlepidoptera palaearctica", now being edited in Austria, each volume bearing Gregor's name as co-author and co-editor of the whole series.

His sense of colour and form made it possible

for Gregor to differentiate the taxonomic value of characters in variable species and to discover new taxa even in such traditionally and classically studied groups as higher Diptera. Primarily, it is his discovery of a new species (of the type sibling species) in the classically monotypic genus *Myospila* (*M. hennigi*). No less remarkable, however, is his discovery of the ornithoparasitic *Protocalliphora peusi*, which was collected in Europe as long back as before the second world war, but not even renowned dipterologists separated it as a distinct taxon. Gregor's synecological and taxonomic papers on synanthropic flies from non-European regions (Cuba, Hindu-Kush, Himalaya) are also important and pioneering including discoveries of new species (e.g. *Ophyra cubana*, *Paregle danieli*, *Timia arianica* etc.).

Since 1942, when F. Gregor published his first entomological work (Entomologické listy 5: 70—71) the list of his papers has reached the number of sixty titles. Each of them is characterized by precision and critical attitude, the main features of his whole activity. Likewise Gregor's great talent and personal character are stamped with a marked modesty and self-criticism. We highly esteem F. Gregor for these features and sincerely wish him good health and lots of energy in the coming years.

Dr. M. Daniel, C.Sc.

The Second International Theriological Congress will be held in Brno (Czechoslovakia) from 20th to 27th June 1978. The scientific program on mammals will include the following disciplines: paleontology, zoogeography, systematics and phylogeny (classical systematics, karyosystematics, biochemical systematics and genetics), ecology (ecophysiology, population ecology, synecology), medical and veterinary theriology, mammals as pests, protection of mammals (zoological gardens, reservations, parks, endangered species), study of game animals and animal husbandry, morphology (anatomy and fine structures), etiology. Contributions of similar character will be formed into thematical groups.

Scientists interested in participating in the Congress are requested to notify it to the Secretary of the Second International Congress, Institute of Vertebrate Zoology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (Ústav pro výzkum obratlovců, ČSAV) Květná 8, 603 65 Brno, Czechoslovakia.