

Doyen of Czech phycology



RNDr. Oldřich Lhotský turned 90 this year, and therefore the Czech Botanical Society named him an honorary member, in recognition of his life-long work in the field of phycology. He is already an honorary member of the Czech Limnological Society and holder of the Holuby medal of the Slovak Botanical Society. His journey to the Institute of the Academy of Sciences was far from easy. He graduated from Charles University in Prague, through the Department of Prof. S.Prát, in year 1950, in the field of plant physiology. He was the author of the pioneering electron microscopy work on the structure of the cell wall of the desmid *Closterium*, published in 1951. He also actively worked in the field of astronomy and speleology. In 1950, he was forced to leave for political reasons. Later he assisted Dr. Šrámek-Hušek in the establishment of the Hydrobiology Department in Sedlice. In 1952 he moved to the Liberec Regional Water Services, where he founded the new water-works laboratory for monitoring water supply in the county. He worked for a time as a laboratory manager, then in sewer maintenance, and as a for-

rest worker in the Jizerské mountains. After 6 years of work in the hygiene services, he was admitted to the Laboratory of Experimental Phycology of the Institute of Microbiology, ČSAV, in Třeboň. He served there in the Academy of Sciences until his retirement. In addition to his scientific work, and later in the Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, he used his significant endeavors to help Czech phycology to penetrate into world science. As the managing editor of the magazine *Algological Studies*, established 1968, which he edited for 40 years, he published 137 volumes, containing 1,424 articles written by 900 authors from 69 countries. His language and expertise was the main reason the journal achieved world acceptance, and this is attested by the fact that renowned abstract publications such as *Current Cont.*, *Biol.Abstr.* and *Aquatic Sci. Fish. Abstr.* have included it in their databases. That a workplace in the former Czechoslovakia could publish a magazine in the then West Germany, even if “only scientific”, was far from obvious and occurred only thanks to the enlightened authority of the former director of the Institute of Botany, Dr. S.Hejný. In this regard, O.Lhotský, of the Phycological section of the Czechoslovak Botanical Society (he was a founding member and chairman for one term) deserves recognition. He was an active and intense believer in nature conservation, he was deputy chairman of the main committee of the Czechoslovak Society for Nature Conservancy for the Liberec district, Bohemia, and cooperated in the preparation of planning documents for Krkonoše-Jizera National Park. Later, he participated in designing the Protected Landscape Area. He was awarded the Josef Schöffel prize for Environmental Protection (from the Lower Austrian Provincial Government). His extraordinary knowledge of German brought him to the team preparing a partnership with the Austrian town of

Schrems, where he still works, as well as in other Czech-German companies. In the Czech Society of Nature Protection, he represented the Czech Republic in the organization, Green Heart of Europe, devoted to issues of Šumava. He worked on a Memorandum of Issues of Conservation in Šumava National Park, which was presented to the presidents of Germany and Czechia (von Weizsäcker and V.Havel) in Stuttgart.

We wish him many more years of health.

J.Lukavský



Supplementary materials contain further bibliographic information.