

Prof. RNDr. František Hindák, DrSc. – 80 years



Prof. František Hindák, who celebrates his 80th years anniversary in March 2017, belongs to the prominent specialists of the Slovak and also the world phycology. His name is surely connected with the start and development of the modern research of algae in Slovakia. While the historical phycological investigations in Slovakia, particularly in the Carpathians – High Tatra Mountains, were covered sooner mainly by the specialists from Hungary, Poland or by the Czech colleagues, he fully developed and supported the modern phycological research on Slovakian scientific institutions and universities.

František Hindák was born on March 25th 1937 in west-Slovakian Trnava, where he also terminated the high school in 1954. He studied later at the Slovak University in Bratislava and at the Charles University in Prague. He was interested particularly in algology in laboratories of Prof. Bohuslav Fott and he achieved here the master degree in 1959. After a short stay in the Laboratory of Fishery Research of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Bratislava, he worked and finished

his PhD theses in Laboratory of Phycology of the Institute of Microbiology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences at Třeboň, in the new established laboratories oriented mostly on the mass cultivation of algae, under the leading of Dr. Ivan Šetlík. His work in Třeboň was very important and fruitful. He participated substantially at the establishment of the basic collection of experimental strains, important for the work of the whole department. It was the main basis for the selection of experimental strains. From 1968, he worked in laboratories of the Institute of Microbiology in Brno, and, at last, he started his phycological research at the Institute of Botany on the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. In 1979 he was awarded as a doctor in biological sciences for his outstanding scientific research and teaching activities. In 1999, he was named as Associated Professor of the Faculty of Science of the Comenius University in Bratislava. He worked intensely as a teacher in several universities in Slovakia and abroad as an invited lecturer. He is also member of several domestic and international committees and scientific societies e.g. in the Slovak Botanical Society (honorary member, chief of the algological section, Czech Botanical Society (honorary member), German Botanical Society, Hungarian Botanical Society (honorary member), Polish Botanical Society (honorary member), or in International Society of Cyanobacterial Research (IAC). He worked also as editor in the scientific journal *Biologia* (Bratislava) or as a member of editorial committees of other scientific journals (*Algological Studies*, *Annales de Limnologie*, *Algologia*). He had spent also longer stays in laboratories of Cuba, Switzerland and the USA.

He participated intensely also in the scientific life of Slovakia, he became a member of Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He organized the international symposia about biology and taxonomy of green algae. The main research activities of Prof. Hindák were focused on the taxonomy of green algae and later were interested in problematics of cyanobacterial diversity and classification. His first scientific activities, concerning the problematics of filamentous green algae, were later enlarged in taxonomy and ecology of all green algae and cyanobacteria. Prof. Hindák is author or co-author of more than 500 scientific articles, he initiated or participated substantially on more than 20 scientific books and revised more than 400 taxa. He discovered 36 new genera and almost 170 new species.

His scientific merit is really admirable. His first studies were focused on taxonomy and ecology of coccal and trichal freshwater green algae. He is a perfect observer and was able to recognize the trends in evolution of this group of algae. A great part of special studies concern just this topic and a set of papers was also oriented on ecological problems, on the role of algae in various biotopes. An organic part of his investigations are the valuable data about phytoplankton from various types of stagnant waters, about periphytic algae from floating ecosystems, and he studied also algal populations from extreme ecological situations (cryoseston, thermal springs, etc.). Later he studied intensely cyanobacterial populations and among his merits belong the recognition of cyanobacterial microflora from various biotopes. All his works are based mainly on the study of the living material. He has an outstanding practice in cultivation of special types and in the evaluation of all changes dependent on environmental factors. He was a leading person in 8 long term grant projects. His results enlarged substantially our knowledge particularly about coccal and trichal green algae and cyanobacteria. He contributed to the algal flora in a large

set of biotopes and collected also material from different countries outside Slovakia, Czech Republic and central Europe, including the far countries as India, China, East Africa or several American regions. His outstanding work in phycology was evaluated by several awards in Slovakia (L. Holuby memorial medal, Gold medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Medal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University) and Hungary (Medal of J. Pantoczek of Hungarian Algological Society).

Prof. Hindák is now well known specialist and his work is appreciated by phycologists over the world. We congratulate to his anniversary and wish good luck and all the best for next years.

Jiří Komárek



More data and details about the career and life of Prof. Hindák see in previous celebrations articles:

Komárek J. & Kováčik L. (1987): RNDr. František Hindák, DrSc. oslavil padesáté narodeniny. – *Biologia (Bratislava)* 42(5): 521–523.

Kováčik L. & Marvan P. (1997): Ass. Prof. RNDr. František Hindák, DrSc., sexagenarian. – *Biologia (Bratislava)* 52(1): 129–135.