

Anniversary of RNDr. Zdeňka Žáková, CSc.



Zdeňka Žáková was born 17. 4. 1938 in Brno. Zdeňkas' love for nature have predestined her life path. After graduation from grammar school she started to study biology and chemistry with specialization in plant physiology at the Faculty of science, Masaryk university (former Jan Evangelista Purkyně university) in Brno. She successfully completed her studies in 1961 obtaining an academic title *graduated biologist (promovaný biolog)*. She continued in plant physiology studies and achieved another two academic degrees: RNDr. (*rerum naturalium doctor*) in 1967 and CSc. (*candidatus scientiarum*) in 1977. After graduation Zdeňka shortly worked as a grammar school teacher in Zdounky. In 1964 she joined the team of the Brno branch of T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute (former Water research Institute Prague) where she continuously worked until 1992. Her research here was closely connected with water management. She dealt with hydrobiological problematics of running and standing waters, especially eutrophication as a consequence of anthropogenic pollution. Besides monitoring of eutrophication she proposed actions leading to lower trophic levels. For several years she was the leader of the Water quality maintenance department and a member of Czech-Austrian commission for borderland waters.

She dealt mainly with identification of bioseston and phytoplankton. During more than 50 years she identified thousands of samples of phytoplankton and phytobenthos from various types of localities such as the rivers Dyje, Morava, Svratka, Jihlava, Malše, Lužnice, water reservoirs Vír, Hubenov, Dalešice – Mohelno, Orlík, many especially Moravian fishponds, different water management companies, the nuclear power stations Dukovany and Temelín and various water works. In cooperation with IT specialists she elaborated a computer programme for water quality evaluation based on bioseston and periphyton. She evaluated samples from saprobio-logic and trophic point of view highlighting its use in practice. The proposal of modification of the laboratory test *Determination of potential water productivity* in 1971 was as another important act of Zdeňka that served as a base for standard determination of potential water productivity. A classification scale originated from its evaluation. Besides phycology Zdeňka was also interested in water toxicity and the problematics connected with an outflow of warmed up waters. During her research of Czech-Austrian borderland she found the invasive thermophilous rhodophyte *Compsopogon coeruleus* in a small thermally polluted river Pulkava. Constructed wetlands became another interest of Zdeňka. She belonged to the pioneers of these biotechnologies in the Czech Republic. After retirement Zdeňka founded the company Biotes focusing mainly on biomonitoring and constructed wetlands. Zdeňka continued collaboration with T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute and also other institutions. For several years she worked for International Water Association at groups of specialists such as “Diffuse pollution” and “Use of Macrophytes in Water Pollution Control”. Zdeňka published over 100 scientific papers and actively attended conferences in the Czech Republic and also abroad (Budapest, Chicago, Milwaukee, Edinburgh).

Zdeňka is very kind, cheerful, friendly and always ready to help younger colleagues. Despite her 80th birthday anniversary she looks at least ten years younger! When we asked her for a recipe she said she is doing the Exercises of 5 Tibetan every morning since the birth of her youngest child and we also think that Zdeňka looks so good thanks to her positive life attitude.

We cordially wish Zdeňka many more happy years in good condition with beloved family, friends, hobbies, nature, phycology and limnology.

In the name of her phycological colleagues Rodan Geriš and Markéta Fránková