



In Memoriam of Academician Ctibor Blatný

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Academician Ctibor Blatný Dr.Sc., Doctor Honoris Causa, Laureate of the State Prize, one of the founders of modern phytopathology in Czechoslovakia, died on December 15, 1978, at the age of 81 years.

Ctibor Blatný was born on September 8, 1897 in Česká Skalice. His interest in entomology, particularly in Coleoptera, started early in his student's years. After the First World War he graduated at the Agricultural University, where he also worked as an assistant at the Department of Zoology. His remarkable work on the cultivation of mites won him the title of Doctor of Technical Sciences in 1924. In the same year he joined the newly founded Institute for the Plant Protection in Prague and in 1939 he was put in charge of this institution. After the Second World War he worked in the Hop Research Institute in Žatec, but already in 1951 he returned to Prague as the Head of the phytopathological department of the Biological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1962 Dr. Blatný became the first director of the established Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. After his retirement, he continued in scientific work until the last days of his fruitful life.

*The scientific activity of Academician Blatný was many-sided (see Bibliography: Čas. čs. Spol. entomol. 55 : 98—100, 1958; Ochr. Rostlin (Praha) 3 : 157—168, 1967; 8 : 149—154, 1972; 13 : 157—160, 1977). He was also active in many editorial boards and commissions, and was one of the institutors of *Biologia Plantarum*.*

In his studies of entomology systematics Blatný specialized in the family Pselaphidae and Scydmenidae (Coleoptera). Of his mycological works the most important are the study on hop downy mildew and the discovery of a new biotype of potato wart agent (1942). As a keen and talented observer and enthusiastic experimentalist he achieved remarkable results, from which he deduced ingenious conclusions. He worked out the principles for the restoration of hop-gardens using controlled seed material, and demonstrated the suitability of hilly areas for cultivation and propagation of healthy potato seed. He was the founder of phytomedical service in our country. The main subject of Blatný's studies in later years were the virus diseases of crop plants and forest trees, and the abnormalities in higher fungi and ferns, whose virus origin he tried to prove.

Blatný was tireless in insisting on a close connection between science and practice. He had many co-workers not only at home but also in foreign countries, where he often travelled. He also visited Cuba, Viet-nam, Mongolia, China. Apart from scientific papers, he published many articles and reports in popular scientific magazines and daily press, he lectured in broadcast and television programmes.

The scientific work of Academician Blatný was appreciated both at home and abroad. He was elected the Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in November 1955 and the following year he was granted the title of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences. In 1958 he was awarded the State Prize, and Schiller University in Jena conferred upon him the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa on the occasion of its 400th anniversary. In 1960 Dr. Blatný was appointed Academician and 1966 was given the International Order of Hop-Growing for the second time.

Blatný loved his country and its nature and he devoted much effort to the question of living environment and to the methods of biological landscape planning. He emphasized the biological standpoint in the protection of natural monuments.

The very wide sphere of Blatný's interests was undoubtedly founded on his love to all that lives and his sense of beauty of the nature. By the demise of Academician Blatný the science lost an eminent expert and his colleagues a teacher and good friend.

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