

In Memoriam of RNDr Jaroslav Brčák, DrSc.

On the 21st October, 1983 died, at the age of 58 years and after a prolonged serious illness, the noted Czechoslovak virologist, RNDr Jaroslav Brčák, DrSc., Chief Research Worker at the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Laureate of the Klement Gottwald State Prize.



Dr. J. Brčák was born on the 27th July, 1925 at Jickovice in southern Bohemia. After his gymnasial studies, he matriculated at the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague. He studied Lepidoptera and Anophelea under the guidance of the prominent Czechoslovak zoologist, Professor J. Komárek, and took his degree of RNDr. In his capacity of expert entomologist he participated in the Czechoslovak natural-historical expedition to Iceland in 1948 and contributed to the knowledge of the indigenous Lepidoptera.

His scientific work related to the questions of the transfer of phytoviruses by insects. He studied this problem in close cooperation with Academician C. Blatný of the Institute of Experimental Botany. In this Institute, Dr. J. Brčák specialized in phytovirology, publishing over 125 scientific papers and communications. His scientific bequest is his book "The relationship of plant viruses to vectors" (1972, Academia), in which he summarized the knowledge of the vectors of phytoviruses. This work along with his papers on mycoplasmas and electronic microscopy in virology represent one of the theoretical bases of phytovirology.

The activity of Dr. J. Brčák was many-sided. He lectured on phytovirology at the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University, he was a member of many scientific societies and a member of Editorial Boards of the journals "Biologia Plantarum"

and "Ochrana rostlin". He visited many countries and was active in Cambodia and Vietnam as an expert of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In his capacity of the Director of the Institute of Experimental Botany he had great merits in setting high scientific standards of this Institute, particularly in promoting its orientation towards the realization of the research results in agriculture.

Dr. J. Brčák was a scientist with a wide range of interest and knowledge. His exact scientific works were valuable contributions to entomology, and, above all, to phytovirology. He worked tirelessly until the last months of his life, and his scientific work acted as a stimulus against the treacherous illness, which did not allow him to complete a series of problems, on which he was working.

The Czechoslovak natural history, phytovirology and the Institute of Experimental Botany lost a dedicated scientist, who enriched the knowledge in phytovirology by his unfinished life-work.

RNDr. F. POSPÍŠIL, DrSc.