

In memory of RNDr. Miloslav Sosna, PhD

*We regret to announce the death of RNDr. Miloslav Sosna, Member of the Editorial Board of *Biologia Plantarum* (since its foundation in 1959), scientific worker of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, who died on September 16th, 1985 at the age of 62 years.*



Dr. M. Sosna was born on 22nd October, 1922, in Prague. He entered the Faculty of Sciences of Charles University in Prague in 1945. His interest in biology, physics and also philosophy became definitely outlined in the secondary school. These interests brought him to the study of biological effects of radiation, a problem to which he remained faithful throughout his scientific activity. His teacher of genetics was Professor K. Hrubý, with whom he defended in 1949, as one of his first disciples, his thesis "The effect of X-radiation on the plastids of horsetail". After a brief activity in a breeding station at Stupice, he started working in the Central Biological Institute and later in the Biological Institute of the newly organized Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Here, he also wrote and defended his thesis for the PhD degree.

In the newly founded institutes of the Academy, he took part in their organization and contributed to the establishment of the Genetic Department of the Biological Institute, the first head of which he became. In this capacity, he educated a number of future scientific workers of the Genetic Department of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Acad. Sci., thus ensuring scientific orientation of the department. He lectured in a course of genetics at the Agricultural University in Prague.

The personal scientific programme of Dr. Sosna has remained the study of the effects of ionizing and cosmic radiations. Studying the effects of the individual components of cosmic radiation with concentration on its neutron component, he published several papers proving a direct biological response of the Forbush effect. His later experiments were directed to the simulation of the partial processes of cosmic radiation under laboratory conditions. He worked on the accelerators of particles in the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences at Řež, in the United Institute of Nuclear Researches at Dubno and in the European Institute for Nuclear Energy (CERN) in Geneva. In the last years, Dr. Sosna studied the relation between the biological response and the frequency of radiation pulses at an equal dose. On the results of his work he developed a theory of the genetic effect of cosmic radiation and its significance in spontaneous mutagenesis.

We remember Milan Sosna as an excellent colleague and fellow worker, a reliable friend, but, above all, a gentle, cultivated and noble man.

VÁCLAV POKORNÝ