

ГОДИШНИК НА СОФИЙСКИЯ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ „СВ. КЛИМЕНТ ОХРИДСКИ“

БИОЛОГИЧЕСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ

Книга 2 – Ботаника

Том 101, 2017

ANNUAL OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY “ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY

Book 2 – Botany

Volume 101, 2017

CONGRATULATION NOTE TO
PROF. RNDR. FRANTIŠEK HINDÁK, DRSC.
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

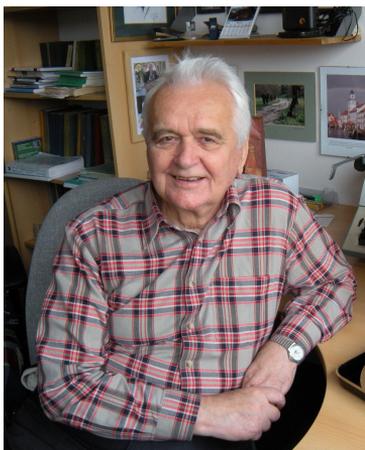


Photo: M. Horecká

This congratulation tribute is dedicated to Prof. FRANTIŠEK HINDÁK – the world renowned phycologist with influential contributions on microscopic algae, which include descriptions of many new for science genera and species. He is a strong supporter and friend of Bulgarian algologists from Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”.

Prof. FRANTIŠEK HINDÁK was born on 25 March, 1937 in the Slovakian town Trnava. In 1959 he graduated the Faculty of Biology of the Charles University in Prague and almost immediately started his career as a Research Associate in the Institute of Fishery Research and Hydrobiology in Bratislava. Thus starting his professional career, he went through all steps from PhD student in the Institute of Microbiology, Třeboň (1962), Research Associate in the same institute (1966) and Research Associate in the Institute of Botany, Bratislava (1968) to the position of the Head of the Department of Lower Plants in the Institute of Botany, Bratislava (1990-1991), followed by his respectful election as a Member of the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava (1992-1998). He was also a member and/or chairman of scientific committees of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1992-2007).

In 1966, F. HINDÁK defended his PhD thesis in the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Microbiology, Prague/Třeboň and then successfully became a *Rerum naturalium doctor* (RnDr, or Doctor of Natural Sciences) in the Faculty of Sciences of the Charles University in Prague (1970) and *Scientiae Doctor* (DrSc, or Doctor of Science) in the Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (1979). In 1992, he became Associated Professor in the Faculty of Sciences of Comenius University, Bratislava and in 2004 he was elected as a University Professor in the Technical University, Faculty of Ecology and Environment in Zvolen. Behind this simple enlistment of all educational steps and positions occupied by Prof. HINDÁK, there are many years of in-deep research in the microscopic world of algae, which often remained “hidden” for those who look with “naked eyes”. Only scholars, who have spent time for numerous field trips followed by hours after hours on the microscopes, surrounded by heaps of taxonomic books, papers, photos and notes, could understand the enormous work, which is behind the brief enlistment of the fields of interests, provided in his autobiographies: “*Field of Specialization*: Phycology, Hydrobiology, Ecology, Algal laboratory and outdoor cultures; *Research Interests*: Cyanobacterial and algal ecology and taxonomy, cyanophyte water blooms, biodiversity, floras, phytoplankton of rivers and lakes, laboratory cultures of cyanobacteria and green algae”. Knowledge gained through his lifetime experience was distributed through about 500 publications on microalgal taxonomy and ecology in prestigious journals and issues, among which are 24 books. Some of these publications were prepared in cooperation with his daughter, respected follower and strong supporter in science and life – Mgr. ALICA HINDAKOVÁ, PhD. The series of five monographic books, published by F. HINDÁK as *Studies of Chlorococcal algae*, are every algologist’s best-known *desktop books* and are widely used together with the invaluable two Atlases on cyanoprokaryotes, Atlas on Euglenophytes (published in co-authorship with K. WOŁOWSKI) and keys for identification of filamentous green algae (published in co-authorship with M. PLIŃSKI). Last but not least, there have to be mentioned his numerous book reviews, bibliographic notes, symposia reports, *etc.* in different journals and many scientific popular articles related to both the value of cryptogams’ investigations and nature conservation, including creation of algal Red Lists. Nature conservation and algological studies in the protected areas and different localities of Slovakia comprise a significant part of Prof. HINDÁK’s scientific work, but his scientific interests are much wider and concern different taxonomic and ecological groups of algae in various habitats of Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

We shall not even make an attempt to count and generalize the numerous citations of HINDÁK’s works, but would like to note that he generously shared his knowledge and provided collegial support to many authors during his work as Editor-in-Chief of both journals *Biologia, Bratislava* and *Bulletin of the Slovak Botanical Society*, as well as in the Editorial boards of *Algological Studies* (Stuttgart), *Annales de limnologie* (Toulouse) and *Algologia* (Kiev). The same

words are relevant to his noble work as President of the Slovak Botanical Society (1999-2005) and as President of the Foundation Ján Futák (1995-2007).

The *algological acknowledgements* for his contribution to the knowledge on the taxonomy and ecology of microscopic algae find best expression in the decisions of authors from all over the world to name genera and species of algae after him. Two genera and nine species refer to his name with expressed gratitude by the authors: *Hindakia* Bock, Pröschold et Krienitz, *Hindakochloris* Comas, *Characiopodium hindakii* (Lee et Bold) Floyd et Shin Watanabe (Syn. *Characium hindakii* Lee et Bold), *Chlamydomonas hindakii* Ettl, *Choricystis hindakii* Tell, *Coenochloris hindakii* Komárek, *Gloeotheca hindakii* Stoyneva, Gärtner et Vyverman, *Komvophoron hindakii* Hasler et Poulícková, *Lagerheimia hindakii* Hegewald et Schmidt, *Scenedesmus hindakii* Hegewald et Hanagata and *Trachelomonas hindakii* Duangjan et Wołowski.

The high recognition of PROF. F. HINDÁK's professionalism and experience led to invitations for work abroad and foreign study visits in different algological and limnological centers around the world, with longer stay in Cuba (1965, 1979-1980), Switzerland (1991-1992) and U.S.A (1994), as well as to the long list of honor and distinctions: Holuby Prize of the Slovak Botanical Society (1985), Prize of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1987, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004), Comenius University Prize (1987), Honorary Member of the Slovak Botanical Society (1987), Honorary Member of the Hungarian Algological Society (1995), Slovak Agricultural University Prize (1997), Water Research Institute Prize (2001), Honorary Member of the Czech Botanical Society (2002), Honorary Member of the Polish Botanical Society (2004), Member of the Learned Society of SAS (2004) with the most recent election as a Honorary Member of the Bulgarian Society for Mycological and Algological Innovations on occasion of his 80th jubilee this year.

However, no award and no prize can fully reflect the respect and admiration that this person evokes due to his contribution for building bridges between the algologists around the world. Doubtlessly, here we mean the organization of the Symposia on taxonomy of algae (mainly green algae) commonly known as *Smolenice meetings*: International Symposium *Progress in algal taxonomy* (15-19 June 1987), International Symposium *Biology and Taxonomy of Green Algae* (25-29 June 1990), 2nd International Symposium *Biology and Taxonomy of Green Algae* (Stará Lesná, 12-19 September 1993), 3rd International Symposium *Biology and Taxonomy of Green Algae* (6-10 October 1997), International Symposium *Biology and Taxonomy of Green Algae IV* (20-24 June 2002), 5th International Symposium *Biology and Taxonomy of Green Algae* (25-29 June 2007). Most probably, nowadays the young algologists can hardly imagine the role which these meetings played in establishing contacts between western and eastern scholars during the socialist period of the development of Eastern countries. At that time, Bratislava, situated so close to Vienna, was perhaps the most western point, which most of Eastern-European algologists (including Bulgarian) could dream to reach.

The opportunities to meet colleagues from all countries of Western Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, *etc.*, provided by F. HINDÁK through organizing these meetings, practically influenced and shaped the development of modern algology in many different aspects. Clearly, the *vice versa* statement is also valid – the western colleagues and colleagues from Far East could contact and meet their eastern partners, and in this way, behind the science stood not only names, books and papers but real people, scholars who sometimes had contradictive scientific opinions, but always remained friends in life. It is really difficult to keep away from great emotions when writing and remembering about the wonderful time of these meetings, hold in the beautiful castle of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on the eastern slope of the Little Carpathians, near the town of Smolenice. Not only the authors of this tribute, but all those who participated in these algological meetings, kept pleasant and thankful memories of these days, which ran under the motto *Friendship and co-operatin as the principle of scientific progress on phycology*, as it was formulated by Polish professor J. SIEMINSKA. Practically, there is no participant, who will not agree that the very special atmosphere of *Smolenice meetings* was always due to the *good spirit* of the castle – F. HINDÁK. We write here his full name, but we have to mention that he never allowed anyone to call him Prof. HINDÁK or FRANTIŠEK, but simply FERO. We are sure that FERO leaves a memorable part in the hearts not only of the algologists who visited Smolenice symposia, but in the heart of everyone, who was blessed to be in touch with him at least once, with his admirable broad knowledge combined with sense of humour and friendly disposition with people. This is fully valid also for his students, PhD students and followers, who comprise an important group among the modern Slovakian phycological school.

We hope that this small tribute could express our cordial and deeply grateful acknowledgment of the personality and scientific traces of the preeminent phycologist Prof. F. HINDÁK, of our friend and colleague FERO.

Felix natalis dies, Prof. HINDÁK! Ad multos annos!

Prof. DrSc Maya P. Stoyneva-Gärtner,
Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” &
tit. Univ.-Prof. DrSc Georg Gärtner
Innsbruck University, Dr.h.c. of Sofia University