

CZECH MYCOLOGY
Publication of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology

Volume 57

December 2005

Number 3-4

**This number of Czech Mycology
is dedicated
to Mirko Svrček
to his 80th birthday**

To commemorate the eightieth birthday of Mirko Svrček

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Photo A. Kubátová

This year the famous Czech mycologist Dr. Mirko Svrček celebrated his eightieth birthday. His course of life and scientific work have been described in details in former commemorative contributions – see *Čes. Mykol.* 29: 219–228 (1975), *Čes. Mykol.* 39: 243–249 (1985), *Preslia* 57: 378–379 (1985) and *Czech Mycol.* 49: 53–58 (1996).

Here I just briefly remind the reader of some basic facts. Born in 1925 in Prague, he started with mycology during the study at secondary grammar school and subsequently at Charles University, Faculty of Science. In 1946 he joined the staff of the Botanical Department (later Mycological Department) of the National Museum in Prague, where he has regularly been working up to 1992, when he officially retired. During several decades his interest has been focused especially on cup fungi (Discomycetes), but also on Myxomycetes and several groups of gilled fungi.

In the past ten years Dr. Svrček continued his mycological activities not only in the National Museum, but also at many field trips to the surroundings of Prague, southern Bohemia and the Šumava Mountains, collecting material of many groups of Ascomycetes, Basidiomycetes and Myxomycetes. Moreover, he elaborated some ascomycetes and basidiomycetes for the first Red list of fungi (macromycetes) of the Czech Republic which will be published in 2006 and participated on mycological research of some nature reserves on the Czech territory. As an excellent field mycologist he is always a welcome leader of excursions for amateur mycologists and students of mycology. Moreover, he is an active member of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology and chairman of the Section for Study of Microscopic Fungi of this Society.

Dr. Svrček has become a real doyen of Czech mycology. From this point of view his sustained interest in contact with students and young mycologists must be emphasised. He offers his stimulating thoughts and inspiration to all beginning mycologists, who find their way to an older and experienced, but amicable colleague.

It is a pleasure for me to congratulate Dr. Svrček and to wish him physical health and peace of mind for a long time to come on behalf of all Czech mycologists.

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