

Remembrance of Dr. Marta Semerdžieva

The whole mycological community has been shocked by the sad news that Dr. Marta Semerdžieva unexpectedly passed away on April 2, 1994. Details on her creative activity were summarized in Czech Mycology (Česká mykologie 42: 233-239) in 1988 when she celebrated her 60th anniversary.

We would like remember late Dr. Semerdžieva by the memorial address presented by Prof. H. P. M o l i t o r i s at 7th IUMS Mycology Division, Prague, July 1994, at the opening of colloquium MC-1 Taxonomy of Basidiomycetes, of which Dr. Semerdžieva was a convener.

"Ladies and gentlemen,
this Czech start of my address was the last that was taught to me as an introduction to a paper last September by our beloved friend and respected colleague Dr. Marta Semerdžieva whom we recently have lost by a tragic accident.

Please let me shortly review the life of this extraordinary personality.

Marta Malischová was born in 1928 in Prague and grew up near the wonderful town of Karlovy Vary. In 1951 she married the Bulgarian architect Stefan Semerdžiev and lived for several years in Bulgaria where she also started her mycological work as an assistant at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

After her return to Czechoslovakia she studied from 1959 to 1964 mycology at the Charles University in Prague and did her Masters thesis on "Cultivation in vitro of some fungi of the family *Agaricaceae*" and her PhD thesis on the "Genetical basis of mucidin production". In 1972 she received her RNDr.

In 1973 she spent a year as Humboldt fellow at Bochum University, Germany, with Prof. Esser where I was doing my habilitation. This was the beginning of our long-lasting cooperation resulting also in sincere friendship between our families.

In the Institute of Microbiology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences her scientific interests were focused on physiology, biochemical activities and metabolites of basidiomycetes resulting in almost 100 research papers and coauthorship



in a book on "Medicinal Fungi". Particularly important is her establishment of the world-wide wellknown "Culture Collection of Basidiomycetes (CCBAS)" and her participation in the work leading to the development of the fungal antibiotic mucidin from *Oudemansiella mucida* together with the late Dr. Musilek and others. All these activities were recognized by the nomination of "Meritorious worker of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences".

Being member of a number of national and international Societies and committees, Dr. Semerdžieva even found time for a "scientific hobby", mushrooms on stamps, where she turned out the booklet "Mycophilately in Czechoslovakia", the first and only Czechoslovak catalogue of mushrooms on stamps.

First of all, however, we all found in her, besides all her professional abilities, a warmhearted woman which beyond all borders of language, countries and professions was always ready to cooperate and to help, often until physical exhaustion, but always with smile on her face.

We all have lost with Marta Semerdžieva an unforgettable colleague, moreover a dear friend. We will miss her.

Please let us now to observe a moment of silence for Marta Semerdžieva."

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