

In memoriam Prof. Zdeněk Černohorský (1910–2001)

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Zdeněk Černohorský, Professor Emeritus at Charles University, Prague, died in Prague on September 5, 2001, eight months after his 90th birthday. Zdeněk Černohorský's life was always associated with botany, and his activities in various branches of the discipline as well as his important personal image influenced the life of our botanical society.

Zdeněk Černohorský was born on December 27, 1910 in Chroustovice near Chrudim (East Bohemia). He graduated from Charles University, Prague, in 1933 with a specialization in lichenology, especially lichen sociology. However, during the next decade he studied also anatomy and morphology of seed plants. After university studies, he was a teacher at various schools (primary school in Chroustovice and later on secondary schools in Český Krumlov, Mělník and Prague). He started his professional career after World War II at the University of Agriculture and Forestry, from where he moved to the Paedagogical Faculty and after 1959 to the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University, after which he retired in 1977.

In lichenology, Professor Černohorský was known as co-author of a key to Czechoslovak macrolichens (Černohorský, Nádvorník and Servít 1956), as well as for introducing fluorescence analysis in lichen identification, and for a series of taxonomical and chorological studies in yellow *Rhizocarpon* species.

However, Zdeněk Černohorský devoted his interest, activities and work to all branches of botany, especially anatomy (a monograph on seeds of *Cruciferae*), morphology (a textbook with eight editions!) and education. Last but not least, he was active in organizing and managing science, namely in the Czechoslovak Botanical Society (he served as the Society Chairman for 12 years and Editor-in-Chief of *Preslia*, the journal of the Society, for 27 years) and in academic functions (Vice-Chancellor, Dean). He was elected an Honorary Member of the Czechoslovak Botanical Society, the Slovak Botanical Society and the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology.

Professor Černohorský was an excellent teacher. Education was another important field where he had impact on several generations of teachers and students. He loved to read lectures and to be in contact with students. His mind open to new trends and methods kept him young. He frequently published information on novelties in science in *Vesmír*, a Czech journal focused on popularization of science.

He loved discussions and regularly, every week, attended meetings of the Czech Botanical Society with lectures, as well as seminars for students at the university. He always knew how to ask a reasonable question, be it on any topic.

He always encouraged talented young people and followed them with fatherly love. His language and rhetorical abilities as well as conviviality facilitated good relationships with many colleagues abroad. Unfortunately, he spent most of his life in a period when travelling abroad was very difficult; so he was unable to establish as many contacts as he might have liked. Nevertheless, he was able to make use of all of the few journeys he made abroad both for educational and personal contacts. He had close links with many old friends in other countries (e.g. Á. Löve, J. Poelt and G. Clauzade).

Zdeněk Černohorský was a person of high personal integrity. His life was not easy, but he lived it both with honour and humility. He will be greatly missed by all generations of Czech and Slovak botanists. "Never dies who is still living in our minds."

Bibliographies of Z. Černohorský have been published in *Preslia* 42: 386–389 (1970), *Preslia* 52: 358–360 (1980) and in Buchberger J., ed., *Devadesáté narozeniny prof. RNDr. Zdeňka Černohorského*, TIS – nezávislé sdružení přátel přírody, Praha, 2001.