

Mirko Svrček passed away

It is our sad duty to announce that RNDr. Mirko Svrček, CSc., eminent Czech mycologist and long-time Managing Editor (1974–1992) of the journal *Česká Mykologie* (now *Czech Mycology*), passed away on April 29, 2017, at the age of 91. He was born in Prague on October 11, 1925.



His biography and bibliography have been described in detail in former commemorative contributions – see *Česká Mykol.* 29: 219–228 (1975), *Česká Mykol.* 39: 243–249 (1985), *Preslia* 57: 378–379 (1985), *Czech Mycol.* 49: 53–58 (1996), and *Czech Mycol.* 57: 179–182 (2005). There are also Czech-written papers on his life and work in *Mykologické Listy*, another journal of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology, the last of which was published in no. 132: 53 (2016) on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Let us briefly commemorate his most important achievements in mycology.

Mirko Svrček was one of the last mycologists who managed to work in almost all groups of fungi, but especially in asco- and basidiomycetes. He was mainly interested in the taxonomy of these groups, but also in their distribution and field ecology. MycoBank database shows 342 fungal taxa described by him as new to science (some of them with collaborators like J. Kubička, J. Moravec, Z. Pouzar and A. Pilát), genera, species as well as infraspecific taxa.

After studies at Charles University in Prague, his scientific life was connected with the National Museum in Prague, where he has worked at the Botanical Department and since 1965, for the rest of his productive age, at the separate

Mycological Department, which he regularly visited during his retirement (actively until 2011, lastly in 2014). Tens of thousands of herbarium specimens collected by him in the former Czechoslovakia, present-day Czech Republic, and several other European countries are deposited in the mycological herbarium of the National Museum (PRM), including type collections of taxa he described.

He was very active in organising lectures and field trips for the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology. He inspired several generations of younger Czech as well as some foreign mycologists, especially those visiting the mycological herbarium of the National Museum. In the period 1950–1990 he corresponded with most of the leading ascomycete specialists, e.g. R.P. Korf and R.W.G. Dennis. The genera *Svrcekia* Kubička and *Svrcekomyces* J. Moravec were described in honour of him, and five species of fungi (ascomycetes) have their epithets derived from his name (*svrcekii*, *svrcekiana*).

We will always remember him as an enthusiast for nature (not only for mycology, but also for botany and landscapes) and a lover of life and people.

May he rest in peace.

Jan Holec



Mirko Svrček at a field excursion of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology in Kocába stream valley near Mokrovraty, 3 June 2006. Both photos K. Prášil.