

Zdeněk Pouzar, important Czech mycologist of world renown, passed away

It is with deep regret that we announce to all mycologists that prom. biol. Zdeněk Pouzar, CSc., an excellent expert in macromycetes, died on 4 June 2023 at the age of 91.

Zdeněk Pouzar was born on 13 April 1932 in Říčany near Prague, graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Charles University, Prague, worked for many years at the Botanical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and then at the Mycological Department of the National Museum, Prague as department head and curator of the PRM herbarium. After his retirement, he continued his mycological activities as an emeritus co-worker until 2017, when sudden illness confined him to a nursing home bed.



He acquired practical field knowledge of fungi mainly from Ivan Charvát, then secretary of the Czechoslovak Mycological Club, learned the basics of general mycology at university from Prof. Karel Cejp, and was taught methods of scientific work in mycology by Albert Pilát.

He mainly devoted himself to the taxonomy and nomenclature of selected groups of macroscopic basidiomycetes and ascomycetes, especially polypores, corticioids, hydroids, agarics, boletes, gasteromycetes and pyrenomycetes. Alone or with his closest collaborator František Kotlaba, he published hundreds of scientific papers, mainly in the journal *Česká Mykologie*, now *Czech Mycology*. The MycoBank database registers 352 nomenclatural novelties published by him as author or co-author, including descriptions of new families (e.g. *Entolomataceae*, *Pluteaceae*), genera, species and new combinations. He also investigated the mycodiversity of natural forests in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Białowieża virgin forest in Poland, from which he collected rich material of especially lignicolous fungi. He also engaged in botany, where he published several valuable taxonomic and nomenclatural studies.

For many years, he worked in the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi at the International Association for Plant Taxonomy. Although he hardly travelled abroad, he had rich contacts in writing or in person with renowned mycologists of the second half of the 20th century and the early 21st century, e.g. R. Singer, J.E. Wright, J.T. Palmer, D.A. Reid, A. David, M.A. Donk, R.A. Maas Geesteranus, H. Kreisel, S. Domański, M. Torti, E. Parmasto, G. Gulden, L. Ryvarden, T. Niemelä,

S. Sunhede and J.D. Rogers. They all appreciated his critical thinking, brilliant taxonomic and nomenclatural insights and imaginative solutions. A number of new taxa have been named in his honour, often by authors to whom he provided the initial hypothesis of their separate status: the genera *Pouzarella*, *Pouzaromyces*, *Pouzaroporia*, and the species *Geastrum pouzarii*, *Leucogyrophana pouzarii*, *Lopadostoma pouzarii*, *Nemania pouzarii*, *Phellinidium pouzarii*, *Physisporinus pouzarii*, *Pluteus pouzarianus*, *Rigidoporus pouzarii* and *Wrightoporia pouzarii*.

Zdeněk Pouzar was very active in the Czechoslovak, later Czech Scientific Society for Mycology, first as a member, later as a committee member, and in the years 1992–2000 as its chairman. He was a long-term member of the editorial board of the international scientific journal *Česká Mykologie*, later *Czech Mycology*, and its editor-in-chief in the years 1993–2009. Although he was never employed at an university, he was a formal or informal tutor or adviser to a number of master's students and doctoral students, later professional mycologists, e.g. R. Hilber, née Podlahová, J. Klán, L. Kotilová, née Kubičková, K. Prášil, V. Antonín, J. Holec, P. Hrouda and M. Tomšovský. He also assisted skilled and enthusiastic amateur mycologists, two of whom are internationally known and consider him their teacher, bolete specialist Josef Šutara and polypore expert Petr Vampola.

Zdeněk Pouzar was very popular among all lovers of fungi, both professional and amateur, for his dedication, kindness, gentle sense of humour and great willingness. We will all remember him with love and gratitude.

On behalf of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology,

Jan Holec
Chairman

For details on biographies and bibliographies* of Z. Pouzar, see the following papers:

- Herink J., Kotlaba F. (1993): Dr. Zdeněk Pouzar sexagenarian. – *Czech Mycology* 47: 92–99.
- Holec J. (2018): Zdeněk Pouzar (*1932) a František Kotlaba (*1927) – nestorové české mykologie [Zdeněk Pouzar (*1932) and František Kotlaba (*1927) – nestorians of the Czech mycology]. – *Journal of the National Museum (Prague), Natural History Series* 187: 159–164. [in Czech]
- Kotlaba F. (1992): Prom. biol. Zdeněk Pouzar, CSc. – 60 let [Prom. biol. Zdeněk Pouzar, CSc. – 60 years old]. – *Preslia* 64: 177–179. [in Czech]
- Kotlaba F. (2002): To the 70th birthday of Zdeněk Pouzar. – *Czech Mycology* 54: 3–6.
- Kotlaba F., Pouzar Z. (2015): Jak jsme před mnoha lety mykologizovali na Slovensku [How we were collecting fungi in Slovakia many years ago]. – *Mykologické Listy* 130: 44–49. [in Czech]
- Kotlaba F., Pouzar Z. (2017): Co se nám podařilo objevit v mykologii [What we managed to discover in mycology]. – *Mykologické Listy* 137: 69–74. [in Czech]

* His bibliography over the years 2003–2021 will be published later.

Photo by Karel Prášil, 5 April 2005.