

Karel Novák in memoriam

On 23 October 2009, Karel Novák passed away after a serious illness lasting several months. He was born on 8 December in Roudnice nad Labem in the Czech Republic. He attended the secondary school in Roudnice and later the Faculty of Natural Science of Charles University in Prague, where he specialised in entomology. After the graduation he worked in the Institute of General and Experimental Zoology at Charles University from 1952 in the Laboratory of Entomology and from 1962 onwards in the newly founded Institute of Entomology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague. Karel Novák is one of the founders, together with Vladimír Landa, Václav Skuhravý and Ivan Hrdý, of the Laboratory of Entomology, which later became the Institute of Entomology of the Czech Academy of Science.

Karel Novák devoted his studies mainly to caddisflies (Trichoptera). He discovered the remarkable adult diapause in many limnephilid species which are adapted to a development in intermittent waters (Acta Čsl. Spol. Ent. 60:68, 1963; Proc. 12th Int. Congr. Ent. Lond.:434, 1965). He studied quantitative methods and the ecology and economic importance of *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, *Aphis fabae*, *Pegomyia betae* and various Lepidoptera occurring in orchards. The biography on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, which included the results of his research activities from 1955 to 1986, was published in the Acta Entomologica Bohemoslovaca 84 (1987:69-75). He worked from 1970 as a secretary of the Institute of Entomology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague and later, after this institute moved to České Budějovice, as deputy director and head of the Department of Ecology and Synecology. Karel Novák organized the transfer of the Entomological Institute from Prague to České Budějovice where he studied insects in orchards and continued his studies of caddisflies at 500 localities in the Czech Republic and more than 60 localities in Slovakia. Around České Budějovice alone he discovered more than 135 species of Trichoptera. His interest was mainly in the mountainous part of South Bohemia. After the floods in South Bohemia in 2002 the abundance of some species of Trichoptera increased tenfold whereas that of



several other species decreased severely. He arranged the historical documents and the photographic archives of the Entomological Institute from 1952 until recently.

He was a member of the Czechoslovak Zoological Society from 1946 onwards and later a honorary member of this Society and emeritus member of the Institute of Entomology. He was awarded the medals of Jan Evangelista Purkyně and G.J.Mendel. His scientific work amounts to more than 120 papers, and he is the author or co-author of five books. His wife Věra worked as a physiologist at the Institute of Physiology in Prague and lectured in physiology at the University of Košice (Slovakia). His colleagues will remember him forever as a good friend. [reprinted from: Acta Soc.Zool.Bohem. 75:149-150, 2011]

Václav Skuhravý



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Autor(en)/Author(s): Skuhrawy [Skuhravý] Václav

Artikel/Article: [Karel Novak in memoriam 4](#)