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Ludmila Marvanová – 70th birthday

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In 1991, Olga Fassatiová published an article in *Česká mykologie*, Praha (45:123–127, 1991) on the occasion of Ludmila Marvanová's 60th birthday (born on February 22, 1931), including a list of Ludmila Marvanová's publications. Ten years after we commemorate her continuing activities.

Ludmila Marvanová as curator has been working in the Czech Collection of Microorganisms with unchanging intensity. Along with the development of electronic media the way of keeping data on collection cultures has changed, too, and the Czech Collection of Microorganisms joined the European project MINE (Microbial Network Europe). Ludmila Marvanová has had her share in refining definitions of database fields for fungi, and in implementing the project launched by the Ministry of the Environment (Building of National Node for the Database Researches) as part of the collection of fungi.

In the nineties various grant agencies and other institutions started to operate in the Czech Republic, opening competitions or entering into contracts for important projects. Ludmila Marvanová took part in several Czech and international projects, focussed mainly on aquatic hyphomycetes. At that time hydrobiologists started to be increasingly interested in these organisms, as they proved to play an important part in the food networks of aquatic ecosystems where decomposed leaf mass often was the only food source for benthic zoocenoses. Hand in hand went a growing interest in detailed study of the fungi, their life cycles and environmental requirements. Within the Czech Republic Ludmila Marvanová studied the fungi under the project Social and Natural Landscape Elements in the Extended Area



L. Marvanová at a collecting trip to streams in Portugal.

Photo Amaro Rodrigues,
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of the Dukovany-Dalešice Power System (1993–95), and between 1998–2000 as project researcher of the Taxonomy of Aquatic Hyphomycetes of Temperate Climate and their Species Diversity in Waters of the Czech Republic opened by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic. Nowadays, many world research institutes study these fungi and their ecosystem functions. Ludmila Marvanová has been respected as one of the leading experts in this fungal ecologic group worldwide. She has often been called to participate in foreign research programmes, the solution of which requires taxonomy. In 2001 and 2002 Ludmila Marvanová won a scholarship under the INVOTAN programme for shared research of aquatic hyphomycetes at the University do Minho in Portugal. Several research institutes engaged in molecular methods in fungal taxonomy have shown their interest in co-operating with Ludmila Marvanová and utilize her unique collection of aquatic hyphomycetes (such as Technical University Berlin, New University of Lisbon, Mount Allison University in Sackville, University of Illinois, Urbana, Clark University in Massachusetts). In addition to that, Ludmila Marvanová travelled abroad several times with the purpose of preparing the manuscript of a monograph of aquatic fungi, together with other two foreign authors.

However, Ludmila Marvanová's professional activities were not concentrated on studies of aquatic fungi only. In the past ten years, she took part in the following projects: Analysis of Natural Conditions of the Peat Bog Locality Kaltwasser in the Flood Area of the Reservoir Turček (1992–1993), Basic Microbial Research in the Caves of the Moravian Karst (1994), or Biodiversity Protection Programme (1996–1997) in the region of lower River Dyje. Ludmila Marvanová published the results of her research activities both in scientific publications and also by way of presentation at congresses, conferences and symposiums held in the Czech Republic and abroad: (7th IUMS Congresses, Prague 1994, 5th International Mycological Association Congress, Vancouver 1994, 20th Czechoslovak Microbiological Society Congress, Ostrava 1995, 8th International Congress for Culture Collections, Veldhoven 1996, 2nd International Meeting on Plant Litter Processing in Freshwaters, Lunz 1999).

To get an idea of the volume of work carried out by Ludmila Marvanová we must not forget services related to her collection of fungi, mainly identification of microscopic fungi upon the requirements placed by various research institutes, industrial plants, private entrepreneurs, etc. These identifications, and in most cases also isolation of microscopic fungi from industrial products affected by biodeterioration, from food-processing plants, agricultural production, etc. have not been published.

The scope of activities rendered by experts of the Czech Collection of Micro-organisms does not include teaching primarily. Ludmila Marvanová, however, got involved in teaching in the last ten years, too. She was a consultant to several degree works and PhD theses, took part in determination courses held for graduate biolo-

gists in hygienic and water management practice, both here and abroad (such as in Riegersburg, Austria, for students of the University of Vienna, at a course focussed on identification, biodiversity, ecology and aquatic hyphomycetes preservation held in Coimbra, Portugal in 1998).

The description of Ludmila Marvanová's activities in the past ten years is supported by the bibliography thereof, which shows that the biggest part of her publications concentrated on taxonomic-morphologic aspects (description of new or little known taxons, new information on conidiogenesis, etc.). Another substantial part of Ludmila Marvanová's work mentioned in bibliography dealt with biodiversity of aquatic hyphomycetes in the Czech Republic and abroad, and also of micromycetes in caves and soil. Most of the publications are to be found in renowned international journals of a high quoting rate.

Ludmila Marvanová is a member of several mycological societies. The Czech Scientific Society awarded Ludmila Marvanová the title of Honorary Member for her credit of mycology development in 1996, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Society. Her present commitment in the Society is that of a member of the editorial board of the journal *Czech Mycology*. She is also a member of the British Mycological Society, Mycological Society of Japan and since 1998 Honorary Member of the Mycological Society of America.

A general overview of Ludmila Marvanová's activities clearly shows that her achievements are based on a studied, systematic and dedicated work and working possibilities. She managed to combine scientific talent with publishing abilities, communication skills and readiness for action. Her work also proves that certain branches, tasks and problems have to be studied on a lifetime basis to obtain results from the research and routine for permanent service. Her knowledge and experience is based on a wide insight in the sciences and deep biological background extended earlier on by several years of agricultural research.

We express our congratulations to Ludmila, wishing her good health in the coming years to continue her work.

Ad multos annos!

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