

TO PROFESSOR VLADIMIR TEYROVSKÝ ON HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

G. JURZITZA¹ and A. SCHÖTTNER²

¹Botanisches Institut der Universität (TH) Karlsruhe,
Kaiserstr. 12, D-7500 Karlsruhe, German Federal Republic

²Bergstr. 29, D-6331 Katzenfurt, German Federal Republic

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A short biography and appreciation of odonatological work of V. TEYROVSKÝ are followed by his odonatological bibliography (1922-1977). Most of his dragonfly work is devoted to the faunistics of Czechoslovakia and to ecology and ethology of the European taxa. A brief review of the development of odonatology in Czechoslovakia from 1889 to present is also given.

On March 15, 1978, the well-known Czechoslovakian entomologist, Prof. Dr. Vladimír Teyrovský, celebrated his 80th birthday. To him we owe much of our knowledge of faunistics, biology, ecology and ethology of Czechoslovakian dragonflies. On this occasion, and on behalf of his colleagues throughout the world, this journal wants to express our appreciation and warm congratulations.

VLADIMÍR TEYROVSKÝ was born in 1898 in Královské Vinohrady, now a district of Prague. Already at an early age his interest in insects was aroused and stimulated by his father and his teachers. One of the first who inspired him was the famous Czech trichopterologist, Prof. Dr. FRANTIŠEK Klapálek, then President of the Czech Entomological Society.



In 1912 Teyrovský matriculated at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University, Prague, where, in October 1920, he graduated in Zoology with a PhD thesis on faunistics, ecology and ethology of water striders.

After a short period as a Demonstrator at Charles University, Teyrovský was appointed Assistant in the Institute of Zoology of the Masaryk University in Brno. Five years later he qualified as Reader in Systematic Zoology. From 1935 he held the position of Assistant Professor of Zoology until, at the beginning of World War II, the Czech universities were closed. After the War, Professor Teyrovský participated in a natural history research scheme in Silesia. In 1951 he became Head of the Zoology Department of the Regional Museum of Olomouc. Three years later he was appointed a member of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Pedagogics College (later to become Palacky University) of the same city. With great enthusiasm Teyrovský organized the Zoology Department and founded a hydrobiology station in Tovačov, where he worked until his retirement in 1958. The retirement from the office, however, did, by no means, mean a retirement from the research activities. Until today Professor Teyrovský remained a most active scientific collaborator of the Moravian Museum in Brno.

These are brief biographic data of our octogenarian, while even a brief review of Professor Teyrovský's scientific opus would fill several pages, and its evaluation would require a specialist in a great variety of zoological disciplines. Attracted to hydrobiology already by his secondary school teacher, Dr. KAREL SCHÄFERNA, Teyrovský remained generally true to this field, though he is a zoologist in the broadest sense of the term, the author of various general text books, zoogeography and ecology papers, and is a successful memoirs writer and biographer. It goes without saying that the conditions under which he often had to work, required from him also a great deal of organizational and managerial qualities.

In the field of systematic entomology, most of Teyrovský's interest, from the very first years of his career, remained devoted to (mostly aquatic) Heteroptera and Odonata.

When, in 1922, Dr. Teyrovský entered the stage of odonatology by publication of his first dragonfly paper, the Czechoslovakian odonate fauna was but partly explored, and the available knowledge summarized in the beautiful, but not readily accessible publications of AUGUST KREJČI (1889-1892), F. BÖHM and K. CZIŽEK (1901-1905). In 1975, however, one could read in Acta entomologica bohemoslovaca (vol. 72, pp. 145-155) that, as far as taxonomy and related disciplines are concerned, the study of Czechoslovak dragonflies, should be considered as practically completed. Most of the credit for this situation goes to Professor Teyrovský.

Between the two World Wars there was but little interest in dragonflies among the Czechoslovak entomologists. The papers on the Moravian fauna by L. HUDEČEK (1930) and J. PUDIL (1935) are among the few exceptions. The

more noteworthy, therefore, are Teyrovský's six dragonfly publications in this period. After World War II, the odonatological activities in Czechoslovakia greatly increased. ADOLF GORTLER (1948), JIŘENKA ŠULOVÁ (1954), RADOMÍR PERUTÍK (1955, 1957), MILAN TRPIŠ (1957, 1965), ALENA WERNEROVÁ (1958), JAN DVOŘÁK (1959, 1966) and JIŘÍ ZELENÝ (1960) are among the more important workers. Some of these were associates of Professor Teyrovský, others prepared their papers upon his suggestion and encouragement, but most certainly the majority of them were influenced by Teyrovský's dragonfly work. His close to 30 odonate papers cover such varied fields as local faunistics, field ecology, behaviour, and morphology of the Czechoslovak taxa. Among these is also the identification key, that has appeared in the well-known series of the Identification Keys of Czechoslovak Fauna, edited by J. KRATOCHVIL and published by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (1959a). In view of the inaccessibility of Krejčí's key of 1892, this work and Teyrovský's checklist of the Czechoslovak fauna (1977b) have certainly greatly facilitated the work of all those interested in the dragonfly fauna of this part of Central Europe.

There are but few workers publishing on dragonflies for more than a half of a century. In spite of his high age, Professor Teyrovský still stands in the midst of odonatological research. While writing this article, he is working on the effect of DDT on Zygoptera, and we wish that it will be given to him to stay with us for many more years; we are sure there is much he has still to tell us about his and our dragonflies . . . !

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Portrait on p. 187 dated April, 1978.