

Jiří Moravec fifty-five years old

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Jiří Moravec was born in Mladá Boleslav, Czech Republic, on 29 October 1942. In 1971 he moved to the city of Adamov near Brno, where he has lived until present. Working in machinery industry, he is an amateur in both mycology and entomology.

From his childhood Jiří has been connected with nature and wildlife. He is concerned with mycology and entomology, both on a high scientific level. In the field of entomology he is a specialist in the fam. Cicindelidae. However, he has spent more time on studies in mycology. In the beginning of his mycological activities, he started to study boletes, but very soon his attention changed to Discomycetes under advice and help of Dr. Mirko Svrček, CSc. and Prof. Richard P. Korf and other world top specialists in that group. Gradually Jiří became a worldwide high reputable specialist in the taxonomy of operculate Discomycetes. He has published widely on this group, but especially on the family Pyronemataceae. His research is based mostly on his own collections and on his examination of relevant type material. He has stressed the importance of the ascospore ornamentation when studied under light microscope but also SEM microphotographs of ascospores have accompanied his papers published during the last ten years. His papers on the genera *Marcelleina* and *Sowerbyella* are of a monographic character. However, his research has centred particularly on the delimitation of the genus *Cheilymenia* and the elucidation of its species. He discovered different types of the ornamentation on the separable outermost ascospore sheath of many species and this ornamentation was proved by SEM for the first time in his papers and used for the infrageneric classification. Jiří has published a large number of papers on *Cheilymenia* and its allies and become the world authority on this genus. He has described a number of new taxa in his papers, and several other new species and genera of Discomycetes were described in joint papers with M. Svrček (Prague), B. M. Spooner (Kew), T. Schumacher (Oslo), D. Benkert (Berlin), Cao Jin-zhong (Teiyuan) and R. Dougoud (Fribourg). His rich international collaboration has been also with other mycologists e.g. Ann Bell (Wellington), Irma Gamundí de Amos (San Carlos de Bariloche), S. C. Kaushal and R. Kaushal (Chandigarh), N. Lundquist (Stockholm), P. Blank (Thayngen), B. Kullman (Tartu), A. Raitviir (Tartu), R. W. G. Dennis (Kew), K. Furuya (Yokohama), H. Dissing (Copenhagen), J. van Brummelen (Leiden), R. Kristiansen (Torp) and others.

One new genus, *Moravecchia* Benkert, Caillet & Moyne, and two new species, *Peziza moravecii* Svrček and *Octospora moravecii* Khare has been dedicated to Jiří.

His other hobby, travelling, is connected with both of his fields of interest. His field excursions are concerned especially with Africa (Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, and Madagascar). However, he also collected fungi in Europe, China, South-East Asia and New Zealand.

Besides activities held by the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology, he actively participated in several international and European mycological congresses, e.g. in Tokyo, including the Sanshi Imai Discomycete Workshop and Foray in Nikko (IMC3, 1983), Regensburg (IMC4, 1990), and Tallin (CEM, 1989). Jiří is also member of the Czech Scientific Society for Mycology, and the British Mycological Society.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues I wish him good health and successful mycological and entomological studies in the years to come.

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