



Doc. RNDr. JOZEF MÁJOVSKÝ - 75 years

The best-known Slovak botanist, erudite taxonomist and florist, founder of karyo-taxonomical approach in Slovak flora research, excellent connoisseur of both historical and present state of flora of Slovakia with exemplary geographical memory and good orientation in the field, J. MÁJOVSKÝ, was born 10. 6. 1920 in Prešov as the eldest of 5 shoemaker's children.

After his Grammar School studies in Prešov he entered Philosophical Faculty of Slovak University in Bratislava and became a demonstrator and a auxiliary research assistant of Prof. Dr. NABĚLEK. Having finished his studies he works at secondary school (1st State Grammar School in Bratislava) for a short time and afterwards he gains a place of assistant lecturer at Botanical Institute of the University. In 1948 he obtained a title RNDr. When Prof. NABĚLEK was dismissed for political reasons in 50-ies J. MÁJOVSKÝ got the leadership of the Institute in his hands. At that time, Prof. RNDr. J. NOVACKÝ is the head of Department of Botany and the director of Botanical Garden of Comenius University and MÁJOVSKÝ became the first secretary of the Department. After the death of Prof. NOVACKÝ, MÁJOVSKÝ became a senior lecturer and the head of the Department and the Botanical Garden. In this period he gives lectures from phytogeography and plant taxonomy at the University, is a supervisor of graduands and post-graduands and is a guide at many excursions. In 1949-52 together with further cooperators he prepares geobotanical data for a plan of management of water supplies, in 1953-54 organizes and works at complex botanical research in Pieniny Mts., in 1954-55 on mapping works on Žitný ostrov Region, in 1955-56 in connection with construction of Oravská priehrada Dam he was carrying, together with Prof. A. JURKO, a botanical research of peatbogs in

Orava Region, and in 1959-63, before the works connected with reclamation of soil started, he did a research on Zemplínska nížina Lowland. Doc. MÁJOVSKÝ is a man with great capabilities to organize, therefore he performed numerous functions: in 1954-56 assistant dean for education at the Faculty of Science of Comenius University later also assistant dean for scientific research, in 1963-65 a member of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia at the University, for many years he acts as an expert of Ministry of Education for Universities, a member of scientific advisory board of Slovak Academy of Science for botany, a member of commission for awarding of scientific titles at Charles University in Prague and at Comenius University in Bratislava, at Slovak Academy of Science in Bratislava. In 1965-68 he is a deputy vice-chancellor for construction at the University and at that time, foundation stone of new Faculty of Science of Comenius University (in 1967) was laid, in 1969 he was awarded an honour of president for the credit for construction. From the above data significant activity of organization of J. MÁJOVSKÝ is obvious. However, his pedagogical activity is important as well. Many important Slovak botanists were his graduands or PhD students (Doc. RNDr. V. FERÁKOVÁ, CSc., RNDr. K. MIČIETA, CSc., RNDr. V. MIGRA, RNDr. F. ČINČURA, CSc., RNDr. T. SCHWARZOVÁ, CSc., RNDr. M. HINDÁKOVÁ, RNDr. A. UHRÍKOVÁ, RNDr. L. DOSTÁL) and he has been cooperating with most of them. His pedagogical activities ended when he retired on September 1st, 1985. However, his research activities have continued, even increased. Graduands and PhD students of J. MÁJOVSKÝ became his cooperators for all the life and represent an important source of his large scientific work. J. MÁJOVSKÝ is a native of East Slovakia and he is emotionally strongly linked with this territory. He prepared many school excursions to Bukovské vrchy Mts., Šarišská vrchovina Highlands, Čergov Mts. and the above mentioned works in Pieniny Mts. and Východoslovenská nížina Lowland. He found many new species for the territory and for Slovakia; e. g. *Campanula abietina*, *Ranunculus carpaticus*, *Armoracia macrocarpa*.

In 50-s MÁJOVSKÝ devoted his research activities to xerothermous vegetation research and described (as the author or co-author) several associations (as. *Festuca pseudodalmatica-Potentilla arenaria*, *Festuca pseudodalmatica-Inula oculus-christi*, subas. with *Genista hungarica*, as. *Poeto-Agrostietum vulgaris*, facies with *Petasites officinalis* as. *Alnetum incanea-carpaticum*). Later his cooperation with Prof. A. MURÍN started and it resulted in monumental Karyotaxonomical survey of flora of Slovakia (1987), which summarizes original data on about 2/3 of vascular plant species of flora of Slovakia. In cooperation with many karyologists he published 6 parts of Index of chromosome numbers which were the source for the book and went on cooperating with the karyologists, which resulted in many papers titled Karyological study of the Slovakian flora published in the journal *Acta Facultatis Rerum Naturalium Universitatis Comenianae* (smaller part of the data was published in the section IOPB edited by A. LÖVE in the journal *Taxon*). Besides the colleagues at the Department MÁJOVSKÝ cooperates with many botanists in Slovakia, above all with the following: RNDr. L. DOSTÁL, RNDr. D. BERNÁTOVÁ, CSc., RNDr. Ing. D. MAGIC, RNDr. Z. SVOBODOVÁ, CSc. and with the Department of Higher Plant Taxonomy of Botanical Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences (the head is RNDr. E. KMEŤOVÁ, CSc.).

His critical studies include many critical taxa, e. g. *Allium ericetorum* agg., *Trifolium medium* agg., *Festuca* sp. div., *Sedum* subg. *Hylotelephium*, *Pulmonaria mollis* agg.,

Symphytum tuberosum agg., *Scilla bifolia* agg. (unpubl.), *Dryopteris pseudomas*, *Arum alpinum*, *Muscari* spp., *Isatis* spp., *Ranunculus auricomus* a *R. cassubicus* aggs. (mostly unpubl.), *Genista tinctoria* agg., *Trifolium orbelicum*, *Agrostis* spp. Besides the already mentioned species he found (sometimes in cooperation with other botanists) many new taxa for the territory of Slovakia: *Sternbergia colchiciflora*, *Myrrhoides nodosa*, *Amaranthus blitoides*, *Cycloloma atriplicifolia*, *Chorispora tenella*, *Festuca arundinacea* ssp. *orientalis*, *Lythrum tribracteatum*, *Veronica acinifolia*, *Ajuga laxmannii*. Recently, he devotes his research activities to the genus *Sorbus*, *Sorbus slovaco-carstica*, *S. pekarovae* and many other hybridogenous species, above all from the hybridization of *S. aucuparia* × *S. aria* s.l. are prepared for description. Further interests are represented by the genera *Astragalus* and *Minuartia* (unpubl.). His studies of the genus *Festuca*, in which he described many new taxa: *F. krizovensis*, *F. vihorlatica*, *F. javorkae* (nom. illeg.), *F. pseudodalmatica* var. *scepusiensis* and others remained unfinished. He hasn't completed his large studies of apomictic crowfoot as well (the following taxa remained undescribed: *Ranunculus magicii*, *R. perparvus*, *R. reidovae*, *R. crenulatus*, *R. jasiwiczii*, *R. zaborskyi*, *R. czacinensis*, *R. sillingeri*, *R. futakii*, *R. evittae*, *R. kralikii*, *R. subpoloninus*, *R. hainburgensis*, *R. trifidus*, *R. minor*, *R. turikensis*, *R. reussii*, *R. oravitzarum*, *R. novosedlicensis*, *R. cassovicus*, *R. veterosoliensis*, *R. ricottii-bodicensis*, *R. fatrae*, *R. liptoviensis*, *R. revucensis*, *R. ludovicii*, *R. jastrabiensis*, *R. michalkoi*, *R. bratislavensis*).

From another described taxa the following can be mentioned, *Allium zahariadi* n. nov. subsp. *michalkoi* (from the surroundings of Košice City, not found recently), *Pulmonaria murinii* (named after his closest colleague) + subsp. *continentalis*, *Crocus discolor* var. *hontensis*, *Waldsteinia ternata* subsp. *magicii* (after his friend and colleague). He newly interpreted several taxa, e. g. *Trifolium medium* (excl. *T. sarosiense* and *T. flexuosum*), most populations of *Aster alpinus* were included in *A. serpentimontanus*, he used the older name *C. discolor* REUSS (author of the memorable Květena Slovenska [Flora of Slovakia]) to *Crocus scepusiensis*.

MÁJOVSKÝ published also many new combinations and 2 new species bear his name: *Cardamine majovskyi* MARHOLD et ZÁBORSKÝ (from eastern Slovakia, from the group *C. pratensis*) and *Festuca majovskyi* HOLUB (*F. javorkae* MÁJOVSKÝ, nom. illeg.).

Together with his cooperators and painter KREJČA he initiated and published pictorial flora of Slovakia, popular forest, meadow and water flora, psamophilous flora, many of these volumes were published in the second edition as well.

MÁJOVSKÝ prepared many expert's reports on various works, e. g. on flora of Protected Landscape Region Slovenský kras Karst and for the Flora of Slovakia he prepared the genus *Sorbus* and together with his daughter RNDr. Z. HEGEDUŠOVÁ the genera *Pulmonaria* and *Symphytum*. Every year he prepares lectures for Slovak Botanic Society and on its 6th congress he led the excursion to Pekarova Mt. in Veľká Fatra Mts. where he demonstrated new rowan species, *S. pekarovae* MÁJOVSKÝ et BERNÁTOVÁ.

At the occasion of his 75th birthday on behalf of all Slovak botanists we would like to wish him strong health, the best family atmosphere and plenty of time for his passion - systematic botany.

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Acknowledgement

Authors are grateful for some bibliographic data to Z. TRGALOVÁ (library of Faculty of Science, Department of Systematic Botany, Comenius University, Bratislava).

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