

## **Prof. Dr. Endre Dudich** **1895—1971**

On 5 February, 1971, Dr. ENDRE DUDICH, the founding and holding professor of the Chair of Zoosystematics at the L. Eötvös University of Sciences, Budapest, Ordinary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the leading personality of higher zoological education and scientific life, died after a brief suffering.

In our latest (tenth) volume, his erstwhile pupils and admirers greeted their 75 years old Master by contributions dedicated to him; now, from the inscrutable will of fate, the present volume must needs begin with the words of final parting.

Dr. E. DUDICH was born at Nagysalló, Southern Slovakia (then Hungary), in 1895. His father, the local general practitioner, was also an ardent zoologist. Having excellently finished his secondary school studies, E. DUDICH took natural history and geography courses at the University of Sciences, Budapest, and became a member of the Eötvös College accepting only eminent students. His studies were interrupted by military service for three and a half years during World War I, and obtained his teachers' diplom only subsequently, with the doctorate conferred "sub auspiciis" in 1920.

The first stage of his career, nearly one and a half decades, was his curatorship in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian National Museum, resulting in several studies on various insect groups and two significant works on the polarization investigations of the calcification of Crustacean carapaces and on the biology of the "Baradla" Cave at Aggtelek, Hungary. He won several scientific awards, and was elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences in 1932.

When only 39 years old, he was appointed in 1934 as full professor of the Zoosystematical Institute, created then, of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sciences. By this began the second memorable phase of E. DUDICH's career, characterizable by the high level alloy of teaching, education, scientific research and organizatory activity in natural history sciences.

He led the Zoosystematical Institute for 33 years, and retired only in 1967. The staff of lecturers and research workers of his institute steadily increased, especially beginning with 1952. Under his guiding, the Soil Zoological Research Unit, sponsored by the Academy of Sciences, was also called into being, later headed by his student, and also successor in the Chair of Zoology, Dr. J. BALOGH. Urged by international cooperation, the Hungarian Danube Research Station was also founded in the fifties, with E. DUDICH leading it between 1958—1970, and remaining its chief scientific advisor until his death. In 1958, he also

organized and headed the Cave Biological Laboratory in the Baradla Cave at Aggtelek, the fourth subterranean research institute of this kind in Europe.

As pedagogue, he had all the priceless qualities characterizing a university professor in the classical meaning of the term. In both human and scientific points of reference, E. DUDICH painstakingly prepared himself to fulfill his vocation as lecturer and educator. Between 1925–1937, he worked, partly as a Rockefeller scholar, at the Zoological Station in Naples, Italy, maturing by well-laid plans into a zoologist of wide horizons and an ecologist ever studying connections and interrelationships. When he was appointed professor of the recently established Zoosystematical Institute, he was able to bring together a large representative collection comprising every type of the animal kingdom, and to let make hundreds of illustrative figures and transparencies. He also created a finely selected library, donating also his most valuable books. The seminars of the Institute were filled with a systematical, ecological, and zoogeographical content based on exemplary didactics and scientific fastidiousness. His theoretic lectures provided the fullness of information, while the practical work, introduced under his professorship, was based on actual specimens with stress laid on the recognition of animal species. The curriculum was ever augmented, fined, refined and perfected. There was not one lecture during his 33 years of professorship to which he failed to prepare himself with the utmost care. None who had ever heard him hold forth on a theme could forget his exemplarily clear, concise, animated style. He consistently urged lectures given by honorary docents, in order to have a wider spectrum available for the students to develop special interests.

As educator, E. DUDICH was consequent and demanding. He supported everyone whom he felt to be dedicated and harboring true scientific interest. His pupils were given extensive liberty, with a view to attain self-standing; they could always rely on his help and support both in the laboratory and in the field. Professor DUDICH's door was never closed to anyone, least of all to his students. As many have already stated, he never had a "school" in the customary academic sense of the word, nor a more or less defined special field to call on the work of the students. For those who asked to study any special field, commended, according to their inclinations, any one of a great number of specialized branches of science: taxonomy, comparative morphology, ecology, coenology, hydrobiology, cave biology, etc. This was made possible only by his extensive knowledge and boundless information in literature, and because he wished his men to serve science, and principally Hungarian zoology, along as wide a front as possible. As a result of this concept and his educatory activities of several decades, the great majority of the best Hungarian zoologists and hydrobiologists proudly profess to be "DUDICH students".

DUDICH's scientific work displays a similar wide spectrum. His more than 200 scientific publications embrace various branches of zoology, with faunistical, taxonomical, systematical (special and generalized), ecological, coenological, hydrobiological, cave biological works equally represented among them. The most significant ones are "Systematische und biologische Untersuchungen über die Kalkeinlagerungen des Crustaceenpanzers in polarisiertem Licht" (Stuttgart, 1931); "Biologie der Aggteleker Tropfsteinhöhle 'Baradla' in Ungarn" (Vienna, 1932); his contributions on the food sources of cavernicolous animals, his university manuals on zoosystematics, zoogeography, and ecology, the "Systematisches Verzeichnis der Tierwelt der Donau mit einer zusammenfassenden Erläuterung" (in LIEPOLT, R.: Limnologie der Donau. Stuttgart,

1967), and, last but not least, his research programs and critical works written mainly for Hungarian zoology.\*

In connection with his scientific activities, DUDICH was editor-in-chief or co-editor of several scientific periodicals and publications, and had great merits in the final starting of the series "Fauna Hungariae"; he supported in every way the "Fragmenta Faunistica Hungarica", published by his Institute and running for 11 years, then, beginning with 1956, the "Opuscula Zoologica". DUDICH was also on the editorial board of several specialized journals published aboard. As the head or leading personality of many committees directing Hungarian zoology, hydrobiology or natural sciences, he was exemplarily active and far-seeing. For more than a decade, DUDICH was one of the most highly estimated leader of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauforschung der SIL" (Societas Internationalis Limnologiae).

The personality and activity of the university professor and scientist cannot be separated from those of the private man. DUDICH can only be characterized by the prominent modesty of the true scientist, coupled with natural open-heartedness and sapient humor. His work was permeated with discipline and conscientiousness. The staring point towards others were invariably trust and goodwill, and exemplary conduct as his main means of education. His noble human traits and pedagogic virtues awoke esteem, respect and love towards his person everywhere.

His work was repeatedly acknowledged; already as a young man he won a whole series of first prizes and distinctions. When 37 years old, DUDICH was elected Corresponding (1932), and then Ordinary (1942) Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. After World War II, the reorganized Academy elected him Corresponding (1951) and then Ordinary (1964) Member. He was conferred several high honours by the government, and also received the Kossuth Prize. Many home and foreign scientific societies elected him as honorary member or honorary president.

At Professor ENDRE DUDICH's grave, the multitude of his colleagues, students, friends and admirers took a shaken final leave of him. We abide now, however, by the lasting worth of the great scientist and teacher which brought fame to his field of endeavour both home and abroad, and which commits us all who had the honour to know his brilliant example to try and follow his steps.

DR. Á. BERCZIK

\* The complete list of Professor DUDICH's publications is given by Dr. Á. SOÓS in volume LIX, Állattani Közlemények, Budapest.