

Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Vlastimil Herout, Sixty Years Old



Professor Ing. Dr. *Vlastimil Herout*, DrSc., head of the Department of Plant Product Chemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, the past Chairman of the Scientific Board for organic chemistry and biochemistry at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences celebrated his 60th anniversary on March 17th, 1981.

Born in Želí, district Hradec Králové, he finished his secondary school studies in České Budějovice in 1939 and in 1946 he graduated from the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague, where he was active as assistant at the Department of Organic Technology. Since 1950 he has been working and at the time being he is a senior scientist in the field of natural product chemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the

Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1948, he submitted his thesis and received the academic degree "Doctor of Technical Science", in 1956, he was awarded the newly introduced degree "Doctor of Chemical Science", in 1960, he was elected the Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and in 1964, he was appointed Professor of organic chemistry at the Institute of Chemical Technology, where he has a position of an external teacher up to now.

His professional activities were concentrated on the chemistry of natural products. Professor V. Herout is a world-known specialist in the field of terpenoids. He has been concerned with the isolation of the above-mentioned substances from plant material, determination of their structure, their function in the plant, and phylogenetic aspects of their occurrence. He significantly contributed to a better understanding of the possibility of classification of plant kingdom involving chemical features. He authored and coauthored more than 250 original scientific papers and about 40 books or review articles.

In addition to his scientific activities, Professor V. Herout is respected as one of our outstanding pedagogues. He educated a number of "Candidates of Sciences" and "Doctors of Sciences". From the international view-point he substantially contributed to the education of experts in phytochemistry in the socialist countries. His professional and pedagogic merits were honoured by a series of awards and distinctions bestowed upon him in our Republic and abroad. Let us mention the 1st Degree State Prize (1951), the Klement Gottwald State Prize (1962), The Silver Medal for Merits in Chemical Science (1971), Beruni Medal of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences (1973), Medal of the Wrocław Institute of Technology (1975), Medal of the Institute of Medicine in Poznan (1978), Marin Drinov Silver Medal (on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of foundation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in (1978), Memorial Medal of the Sibirsk Academy of Sciences (1978).

Professor V. Herout is a member of foreign scientific societies, namely American Chemical Society, British Phytochemical Society, Society for the Medicinal Plant Research of the

German Democratic Republic, and American Pharmacognostic Society. He was for a long time the member of the Division of Organic Chemistry and of the IUPAC Bureau.

He also executes many important public functions. For his activities in the Czechoslovak Chemical Society he was awarded the Hanuš Medal (1971) and the Golden Medal of the Slovak Chemical Society (1981).

On the occasion of his anniversary we express to Professor V. Herout our gratitude for his work done for the benefit of development of the chemistry of natural products. We wish him from all our hearts good health and much enthusiasm, so characteristic of his personality.

J. Tomko