

IN MEMORIAM
SÁNDOR MAHUNKA



Sándor Mahunka, Editor of the *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, passed away on 24 December 2012. He was born in Budapest on 17 October 1937. As of 1963 his place of work was the Hungarian Natural History Museum, where he served as deputy general-director between 1986 and 2004. Besides his work at the Museum, he was the head of the Systematic Zoology Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1998 and an invited/a visiting professor at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Ecology (Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest). As an honour of his outstanding scientific achievement and activity he became a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1998.

His scientific field of interest was first of all in the taxonomy of the soil mites (Acari), especially oribatids (Oribatida), but he dealt with research in the zoogeography and faunagenetics of this group as well. The number of his scientific papers and books on the field is some 540 as a measure of his outstanding scientific throughput and persist in doing science. Besides taxonomy and related fields, he made his mark as a scholar in nature conservation as well. The fauna of the Hungarian National Parks was discovered by his initiative and with the aid of his guidance.

He became Editor of the *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* in 2005. He was not only Editor, but one of the most fruitful authors,

publishing 55 scientific papers in our journal. Thus he turned out to be one of the most publishing authors of the journal.

As an Editor he served the journal unselfishly, taking part in policy shaping with great enthusiasm and managed the journal with great competency at the Hungarian National Museum and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as well. Thanks to his help it was possible to have stable financial background for publishing for decades. His pieces of advice in compilation of the issues and experience in publishing scientific journals helped me not only solving sometimes occurring troubles, but forming long-term concepts and visions in the journal policy.

I am deeply touched by his leaving the Editorial Board. He will remain in my memories as an excellent scientist and outstanding editor of the journal. I will remember him as a good friend, conceptional colleague and a dedicated servant of the *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungarica*.

Gábor Bakonyi
Editor-in-Chief