

In memoriam RNDr. Ivan Heráň, CSc.

Ivan Heráň was born at Litomyšl, Eastern Bohemia, on 1 May, 1934. In 1952–1957, he studied at the Faculty of Biology, Charles University in Prague and graduated after having defended a thesis entitled “*Contribution to functional anatomy and ecology of the water vole, Arvicola terrestris L.*”. This subject marked one of the two major scientific aims of I. Heráň: functional and comparative morphology of mammals. From Prague, he moved to České Budějovice where he worked as assistant at the Pedagogic Faculty for about one year. In 1958–1961, his professional career continued at the Laboratory of Vertebrate Zoology, Czechoslovak Academy of Science in Brno. There he started to prepare a post-graduate thesis on “*Adaptive characters of the skeleton in mustelid carnivores*”. At the same time, the second dominant approach of I. Heráň to science became evident, viz, the study of animal behaviour. In his early years of research, he studied the grooming in shrews and badgers, the swimming in water voles and the behaviour of bears in captivity.

In 1961, I. Heráň moved to the National Museum in Prague where he worked until his retirement. There he completed his thesis and, at the Charles' University again, was awarded the CSc. degree in 1962 and RNDr. degree in 1966. At the museum, he held the post as an assistant (till 1962), a scientist (1962–1967) and a senior scientist (1967–1997) being a curator in mammalogy and osteology at the same time. It is uneasy to enumerate all of Dr. Heráň's activities at the Zoological Department of National Museum. Details have been published at the occasion of his 60th birthday by Anděra (1995). In that paper, also a bibliography of I. Heráň until 1994 has been summarized. It contains 68 scientific communications, 21 books, booklets or chapters in books and numerous popular articles, book reviews, bibliography accounts, jubilee reports and short communications. Let us mention “*Animal colouration*”, “*L'animal et sa parure*”, “*Das Tier und sein Kleid*” and “*Díváme se na zvířata*” [We are looking at animals] as examples of the most appreciated books by Dr. Heráň. He also contributed two volumes into a series of booklets “*Zvířata celého světa*” [Animals of the whole world], one devoted to ursid, the other to mustelid carnivores. The present obituary is supplemented by the list of Heráň's publications posterior to 1994.

From among various subjects dealt with by I. Heráň, mammalian osteology and odontology was favoured by him. He studied normal as well as atypical, anomalous or pathological characters in skulls and post-cranial skeletons. Under his curatorship, the osteological collection of the Department of Zoology grew up to more than 16 thousands items being the largest in this country and an important one on a European scale. However, he also was interested in living animals, namely their activity and behaviour. In this respect he was significantly aided by his skill as a photographer and drawer. In addition to mammalogy, Dr. Heráň was involved in batrachology and published four papers concerning the movements, territoriality, colouration and colour changes of the frog *Rana temporaria*.

In 1962–1997, he was the editor-in-chief of the mammalogical journal *Lynx* issued by National Museum. He merits



praise for increasing the scientific level of *Lynx* which, from a local periodical, evolved into an internationally renowned journal. Besides his work at the museum, Dr. Heráň was also involved into various pedagogic duties at the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, and the Department of Museology, Faculty of Philosophy, both of Charles University, Prague. He was member of numerous committees of Czechoslovak zoological gardens and, in 1993, the minister of agriculture of the Czech Republic nominated Dr. Heráň a member of the Central Committee for the Protection of Animals.

I. Heráň held various posts of the former Czechoslovak and the present Czech Zoological Society during the last 30 years. This engagement culminated when he was elected the president of the Society in 1993 and again in 1996, thus he served as president until 2000. He was deeply interested in all Society's activities, including the publication of this journal and this devotion did not ceased after his presidentship was over. Ivan Heráň died on 5th September, 2001. We remember him as an excellent scientist, good colleague and man. He will be greatly missed among zoologists and among members of the Czech Zoological Society in particular.

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