

RADVAN HORNÝ OCTOGENARIAN

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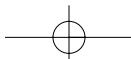
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The year 2012 marks the 80th birthday of Dr. Radvan Horný, CSc., noted Czech palaeontologist and many-faceted natural scientist. He was born June 29th, 1932 in Prague; after graduating the Faculty of Sciences, Charles' University, Prague (then called the Geological-geographical Faculty), in 1955 he took a position as a geologist with the Central Geological Survey. In a team headed by Dr. J. Svoboda he mapped the Silurian formations in the western part

of the Siluro–Devonian synclinorium of the Barrandian Area in 1:5000 scale, supplemented by large number of dug probes and many drill holes. Stratigraphical problems of the Svatý Jan volcanic area were solved in detail, including presence of gaps or reduction of sediments in Upper Wenlockian and basal parts of the Požáry Formation. Several trilobite horizons in the Kopanina Formation have been established in the vicinity of the volcanic archipelago and



Text-fig. 1. Dr. Radvan Horný, CSc. Photo M. Horná 2012.



correlated with graptolite zones. In his spare time he devoted himself to the study of Palaeozoic molluscs, particularly gastropods and "monoplacophorans". In 1961 he transferred to the National Museum, assuming the position vacated by Doc. F. Prantl in the Palaeontological Department, which also caused his work to undergo a fundamental shift. He became the editor of the Journal of the National Museum, Natural History series, a position which he held for 30 years. He oversaw organizational changes in the department, re-installation of older palaeontological exhibits, creation of new ones and scientific study of the museum's collections. In 1970 he became the head of the Palaeontological Department, later even the director of the Museum of the Natural History of the National Museum. During this period he had little time to devote to palaeontological research, with the exception of palaeontological expeditions to Romania and Bulgaria (1973), Libya (1973) and Algeria (1974).

His return to the Palaeontological Department towards the end of 1989 meant a renewal of his full attention to palaeontological research. He remained an important part of the departmental team even after his 'official' retirement in 2007. With admirable dedication, he remained active as a curator and researcher, even assisting with the preparations for moving the department to its new home in Horní Počernice. In his mollusc research, he closely collaborated with experts from the USA (E. Yochelson), Sweden (J. S. Peel, J. O. Ebbestad) and France (D. Vizcaïno). Furthermore, his extensive activities included unusually painstaking preparation of successful exhibitions and attendant publications, devoted to significant personalities of Czech and world palaeontology – J. Barrande (1999, with V. Turek) and O. Novák (2001)). Another project was a palaeontological reconstruction of Lower-Palaeozoic biotopes (with V. Turek and R. Prokop), in concert with the painter J. Sovák. Their book, "Vanished seas in the centre of Europe", acclaimed by the Hlávka Foundation, was published by Academia in 2002 and a Dutch version in 2007.

His first small note about rare wild albinotic plants found in the Karlštejn area was published already in 1948 in the journal "Chvilky v přírodě". The first scientific paper, co-authored with J. Petrbock, R. Horný published during his studies in 1950; his first palaeontological paper in 1952. Two larger papers originated during his early scientific work: a monograph on tiny turriculate ribbed gastropods of the newly established family Palaeozygopleuridae coming from the Lower Devonian "white beds" in Prague (1955), and a large monograph of the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian Bellerophonina from the Barrandian Area (1963). Since then he has published over 200 scientific and professional papers, addressing primarily Lower-Palaeozoic molluscs. A central result of his scientific work is the separation of the Cyrtoneidella group from the class Gastropoda, based on morphology and muscle scars. He spent much time on nonlethal, healed shell fractures, caused by predators. In 1997 was published an extensive paper about gastropods of the Moroccan Ordovician from the Anti-Atlas, based on a rich collections gathered by J. Destombes. A place in Dr. Horný's bibliography (especially in the 1970s) is reserved for his botanical work with saxifrages, an interest where he built on the traditional family concern of his father. A final result of his botanical studies is an extensive, richly illus-

trated book about wild and cultivated saxifrages of the Porophyllum section, published with co-authors K. M. Webr and John S. Byam-Grounds (1986, Stamford).

Dr. Horný's detailed biography with complete bibliography through 2002, assembled for the occasion of his 70th birthday by his friend and colleague professor Ivo Chlupáč was published by the National Museum Journal, 172(1–4) 2002. Therefore, on the occasion of the celebrant's 80th birthday, I focus only on the accomplishments of the last decade and completion of the bibliography, i.e. from 2002 through 2011.

During the 2002–2012 decade R. Horný concentrated research mainly on muscle scars of cap-shelled molluscs from the Barrandian Area. After his remarkable discovery of an isolated pair of scars in *Archinacella* ULRICH and SCOFIELD, 1897 located in the apical part of shell, proving its gastropod character (Horný 1999, Horný and Peel 1999), Horný decided to study in detail small cap-shelled Ordovician molluscs, occurring mainly in early Middle Ordovician Šárka and Dobrotivá Formations, respectively. Equipping the Department of Palaeontology with excellent microscopy photographic technique Olympus undoubtedly stimulated this decision.

Still before this task, in connection with his find of a well-preserved specimen of a tryblidiid in basal parts of the Požáry Formation at the margin of the Kosov quarry, described as *Kosovina* HORNÝ, 2004, Horný studied in detail all finds of the Silurian tryblidiid *Drahomira* BARRANDE in PERNER, 1903 from the Kopanina and Požáry Formations, respectively. In his monograph (2005) he figured all specimens. He also described a new species, *D. kriziana*, which, together with *Pragamira perlonga* (HORNÝ, 1963), yielded evidence about presence of additional pair of large muscle scars between multiple dorsal paired scars and the shell margin. Find of both structures in *Archaeopruga* HORNÝ, 1963 enabled to synonymize the family Archaeoprugidae HORNÝ, 1963 with Drahomiridae KNIGHT et YOCHELSON, 1958. In the cephalic area, radular muscle scars were recognized. An almost stationary mode of life of these tryblidiids on the surface of shells of orthoconic nautiloids, probably in taphocoenoses, was confirmed.

Ordovician small (less than 10 mm) cap-shelled molluscs were originally classified as species of *Palaeacmaea* HALL and WHITFIELD, 1872 (Perner, 1903). These are principally *Palaeacmaea latiuscula* BARRANDE in PERNER, 1903, *P. porrecta* BARRANDE in PERNER, 1903, and *P. primitiva* BARRANDE in PERNER, 1903, all from Šárka and Dobrotivá Formations, respectively.

Several paired multiple dorsal scars, corresponding with diagnose of tryblidiid muscle scar pattern, were observed in *Palaeacmaea latiuscula*, representing a new genus *Peelipilina* HORNÝ, 2006. In addition to *Pentalina prantli* HORNÝ, 1961, these species represent the smallest known, about 8 mm long, Palaeozoic tryblidiids.

Palaeacmaea? porrecta (*Pygmaeoconus* HORNÝ, 1961) brought important knowledge. The Hanuš find of a hyolith conch with a *Pygmaeoconus porrectus* shell in situ is, *inter alia*, unambiguous evidence that this mollusc lived as an obligatory sedentary epibiont on living hyolithids. During growth, coalesced muscle scars in concentric band moved by saltation. Shell is very thick, what relates with the mode of life. *P. porrectus* is a typical representative of cyrtoneidid molluscs.

Palaeacmaea primula (*Patelliconus* HORNÝ, 1961) was studied thanks to well preserved specimen, found and presented to the collections of the Department of Palaeontology, National Museum by Štěpán Rak Jr. Besides others features, it has continuous concentric muscle zones which moved during growth by saltation, which is characteristic for cyrtoneid molluscs.

Of other works we can mention a paper on the gastropod *Anarconcha pulchra* (BARRANDE in PERNER, 1903) from the Koněprusy Limestone, populations of which contain both specimens with pseudoselenizone and rare specimens lacking emargination in the outer lip. Both show numerous, often repeated, repaired injuries.

I. Chlupáč and V. Turek collected a rich material from the Suchomasty Limestone in a neptunian dyke at the site Čertovy schody – East, containing seven specimens of a paragastropod *Antigyra indentata* (BARRANDE in PERNER, 1907). R. Horný found that all of them were, often repeatedly, non-lethally injured by unknown predators and subsequently repaired.

In 2004 R. Horný with J. S. Peel published a detailed description of a new, minor, probably helcionelloid mollusc with characters of technophorid rostroconchs from Early Ordovician of Montagne Noire, *Lamaureiella*. It was found and rendered for study by an outstanding palaeontologist and collector Daniel Vizcaïno.

During 2008–2010 R. Horný worked on a revision of a large manuscript “Gastropod Biogeography” (parts Ordovician and Silurian) for IGCP 530, Biogeography Volume by Jan Ove Ebbestad et al. He mainly examined stratigraphy,

localities, cadastres and correct Czech spelling of localities in the Barrandian Area. This work was carried out with selfless help of J. Mareková.

By collaborative effort of Lower Palaeozoic workers of Palaeontological Department and † Ivo Budil from Czech Radio, Prague a collection of radio talks by Ivo Chlupáč was prepared for print and published (2006). R. Horný, a lifelong friend and fellow worker of I. Chlupáč, and Vojtěch Turek took the main part of work.

Preparations for moving the collections to the new depositories in Horní Počernice were very time-consuming. Unfortunately, Dr. Horný's deteriorating health during the last few years complicated his ability to finish work on the following publications:

a) Perner's problematic species *Straparollus perprofundus* from the Koněprusy Limestone; b) Revision of a cyrtoneid mollusc *Yochelsonellis* from the Silurian of Barrandian Area; c) Morphology of *Oriostoma* operculum; d) Selected genera of gastropods from washings of the so-called yellow beds in Koněprusy quarries, from the collections of B. Bouček and J. Bouška.

There is one more project that Dr. Horný would like to finish, if his health so permits: during his years of research in the terrain near Karlštejn, he accumulated large quantities of gastropods from tuffitic Silurian limestones of the Kopanina Formation at the site Rešna. This material, although partly prepared and categorized, still awaits modern taxonomic evaluation. And so we wish our celebrant continued zeal for this project and good health in the years to come, so that he may fulfill this goal.



Text-fig. 2. Dr. R. Horný and Dr. S. Štamberg at the Poniklá locality (Northern Bohemia). Photo V. Turek 2009.

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