

In memoriam of Dr. Věra Holubová-Jechová (1936–1993)

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Czech mycology lost on March 5, 1993, a prominent micromycetologist, Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová, principal research officer of the Botanical Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic at Průhonice near Prague, who was born in Prague on March 17, 1936.



Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová. Čes. Budějovice, 14. 9. 1982. Photo by F. Kotlaba

She studied mycology and phytopathology at the Biological Faculty of the Charles University, Prague, where she defended in 1960 her thesis "Rots and moulds of imported southern fruits and control of banana moulds", which was carried out under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Karel Cejp. Her delight and talent in taxonomy and ecology of micromycetes already appeared during her university studies, which she achieved excellently figured by photographs or line-drawings.

Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová initially worked in the Cryptogamological Department, Biological Faculty of the Charles University (1960–61) and then in the Institute of Natural Drugs, Prague (1962–63). On November 1, 1963, she commenced her work in the Botanical Institute of the former Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Průhonice near Prague, where was active until her untimely death.

For the whole 30 years, she devoted herself to the study of saprotrophic *Hyphomycetes*, especially those occurring in natural forests, preferably in natural reserves. In collaboration with Z. Pouzar, a specialist on *Basidiomycetes* from the same institute, she studied the connection of the anamorphs and teleomorphs in the *Corticaceae*. This led to the discovery of new taxa of *Hyphomycetes* and, in some cases, to the knowledge of their teleomorphs. In 1969, she defended her postgraduate thesis "Study in wood-inhabiting *Hyphomycetes*", and remained faithful to this subject for her immensely productive life.

She intensively collected fungi in field and, from her microscopic study and cultures, proposed a number of new genera and species, as well as discoveries of new or rare species for Czechoslovakia, some other countries, territories etc., but also the connections of some anamorphs with their teleomorphs.

Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová had a taxonomic sense and understood also the ecology of these fungi; she was also able to solve nomenclatural problems. Her main interest was the family *Dematiaceae*, where she became a respectable specialist. She intensively collected, not only in territory of former Czechoslovakia but travelled often to a number of foreign countries, collecting fungi in Canada, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania. Her numerous collections of *Hyphomycetes* are deposited mostly in the herbarium of the National Museum in Prague (PRM), including types; her culture collection was divided among the Culture Collection of Fungi of the Faculty of Sciences in the Charles University, Prague, the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, and the International Mycological Institute, Egham. She was twice in Cuba (4 months in 1981 and 3 months in 1985), where she collected fungi and took part on the postgraduate education of several Cuban mycologists in imperfect fungi.

She studied *Hyphomycetes* in various large institutes such as the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures in Baarn (1969), the Biosystematics Research Institute in Ottawa (1979) and the Commonwealth Mycological Institute in Kew (1982, 1992). She also took part in several mycological congresses, e.g. in Budapest (1978), Tallin (1989), Regensburg (1990) and London (1992).

The papers of Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová were published not only in Czech journals (*Česká mykologie*, *Folia geobot. et phytotax.*) but also in foreign ones (*Canad. J. Bot.*, *Mycotaxon* and *Studies in Mycology*), as well as Cuban, Estonian etc. periodicals. One of her activities were her regular contributions to discussions on the journal *AnaNet*, published in Canada and designated for specialists dealing with fungal anamorphs.

In the taxonomy of *Hyphomycetes*, she fully accepted modern ideas and knowledge about the conidiogenesis, which she applied in her work. She studied some problems jointly with several leading specialists in the field of *Hyphomycetes* such as J. A. von Arx, A. Borowska, W. Gams, G. Hennebert, D. W. Minter, B. Sutton, S. J. Hughes, L. Weresub and others. She described 10 new genera, 2 subgenera, over

120 new species, and her name is commemorated in the following genera: *Holubovea* Mercado Sierra (1983), *Holubovaniella* Castañeda Ruiz (1985) and *Veramycetes* Subramanian (1993). As a renowned specialist in the *Hypocreales*, she was elected a honorary member of the Mycological Society of America in 1992.

Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová was a very diligent, careful and strong-minded woman, who wrote her papers in a clear, precise and comprehensible style. She continued the tradition of the famous micromycetologist A. C. J. Corda, who founded in Bohemia in the last century the study of microscopic fungi to such an extent that it became of worldwide importance. The publications of Dr. V. Holubová-Jechová represent in a dignified manner this branch of mycology in her country as well as in the world mycological community.

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