

Life and work of Ivo Hodek, the founder of Ecology of Aphidophaga working group

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Ivo Hodek, the world leading specialist on biology of beetles of the family Coccinellidae, and the founder of the global working group Ecology of Aphidophaga, IOBC, died on June 11, 2021, shortly after his ninetieth birthday. Born in 1931, he graduated in 1954 at the Faculty of Science of Charles University, Prague. In 1957, he completed PhD. thesis about the ecology of the most common ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*. From that time, he worked in the Institute of Entomology of the Czechoslovak (later Czech) Academy of Science. Ivo became a leader of a world-famous research group studying the biology of aphidophagous insects. He started a series of the conferences of Ecology of Aphidophaga during the communist era in Czechoslovakia, which was accessible by both eastern and western scientists.

Ivo published three books about Coccinellidae: *Biology of Coccinellidae* (1973) with contribution of taxonomists Ivo Kovář, Bernhard Klausnitzer and G.I. Savoiskaya; *Ecology of Coccinellidae* (1996) coedited with Alois Honěk and contributed by I. Kovář and Piotr Ceryngier, and *Ecology and Behaviour of the Ladybird Beetles (Coccinellidae)* (2012) co-edited by Helmut van Emden and A. Honěk, and contributed by many specialists on Coccinellidae.

Main research interests and achievements of Ivo Hodek were ladybird food ecology with the concept of essential food and dormancy of insects. He studied diapause and cold hardiness of various insects, not only Coccinellidae, but often of Heteroptera, and found such phenomena like recurrent photoperiodic response and multiple pathways of diapause completion. In these fields of research, he had several students and followers, such as Alois Honěk, Plamen Kalushkov, Takashi Okuda, Vladimír Košťál, Piotr Ceryngier and Oldřich Nedvěd, but he influenced much more scientist.

Besides his research and organization activities, Ivo was the longest-serving editor of the *European Journal of Entomology*, published by the Institute of Entomology, České Budějovice, Czech Republic. The editorial board of the journal organized publishing of a virtual special issue of papers dedicated to the main areas of Ivo's interest – biology of Coccinellidae, ecology of aphidophagous insects, and ecophysiology of insects.

Key words: Coccinellidae, aphidophaga.