

### To Irina Vavřínová on her sixtieth birthday



RNDr. Irina Vavřínová was born in Brno on March 16, 1940. Her father was a Russian emigré who found refuge in Czechoslovakia after the Bolshevik revolution. In Czechoslovakia he studied chemistry and established a small chemical factory in Brno. He was imprisoned by the Nazis during the Second World War. Immediately after the war he was abducted to a concentration camp (gulag) in Siberia. After his return to Czechoslovakia he refused to collaborate with the state police. As a consequence his whole family became an object of state persecution. Irina Vavřínová finished her gymnasium studies in 1957 and was not allowed to enter university for political reasons. After a decade, she was finally accepted by the Entomology Department of the Moravian Museum, where she started to work as a preserver on September 1, 1957. In 1960 she took evening courses at the Natural Science Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno but was expelled after two months for political reasons. At last, in 1964, she managed to attend extramural studies at the Natural Science Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc and graduated in 1970. Her diploma and RNDr. theses, on spermathecas in Heteroptera, summarised the contemporary state of knowledge of different families. She made very good use of the rich library and bug collections of the Moravian Museum. A part of her doctoral thesis – her research into spermathecas in individual families of the superfamily Coreoidea – was published in the natural science series of the journal of the Moravian Museum (*Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae naturales*). Here she characterised the differences in individual higher taxa. She was awarded her RNDr. degree in 1985. Her research pursued the Heteroptera group. Together with her chief and teacher, RNDr. Jaroslav L. Stehlík, CSc., she elaborated the distribution and bionomics of individual families of order Heteroptera in Moravia and Slovakia. From 1989 RNDr. Vavřínová was a member of the editorial board, and from 1994 to 1998 executive editor, of the *Acta Musei Moraviae* natural sciences series (since 1997 the biological sciences series). In December 1990 RNDr. Vavřínová became Head of the Entomology Department of the Moravian Museum. She retired on June 30th, 1996. Since then, she has continued with her part-time work for the Entomology Department of the Moravian Museum.

In recognition of our gratitude for her kindness and generosity, we wish RNDr. Vavřínová much happiness and good health.

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PAVEL LAUTERER & JAROSLAV L. STEHLÍK

*Moravian Museum, Department of Entomology, Hvězdoslavova 29a, 627 00 Brno, Czech Republic*