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# Zdeněk Sladký

## septuagenarian

*Professor RNDr. Zdeněk Sladký, DrSc., member of the Editorial Board of *Biologia Plantarum* in the years 1983 - 1990, was born on 30 March 1930 in Archlebov (southern Moravia) in the family of a farmer. He studied biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Masaryk University in Brno. After graduation he worked as an assistant and scientist in the Laboratory of Plant Anatomy, in 1972 he became associate professor and in 1980 a regular professor in plant physiology.*

*Zdeněk Sladký was a pupil of Prof. Vladimír Rypáček. Under his supervision he was involved in studies of the lignification of cell walls, later in the effect of humus substances on the growth and development of plants, eventually in studies of the relationships between these substances and plant hormones. Sladký's interest in plant hormones and their role in plant morphogenesis was incited by Prof. Rudolf Dostál, head of the Botanical Institute at the University of Agriculture in Brno and representative of the Brno scientific school of experimental plant morphology and physiology of plant hormones. Prof. Sladký joined this scientific school and directed his attention, in particular, to experimental studies of flower morphogenesis. In selected plant species he discovered the regularities of differentiation of actinomorphic and zygomorphic flowers, as well as the dependence of determination of sex of flowers and inflorescences. Characteristic for Sladký's scientific activities is his pioneer methodical invention. As the first scientist in Moravia, Sladký used the methods of cultivation of plant explants to studies of flower morphogenesis and to experimental embryology. During studies of in vitro fertilization, as early as the 1970s, Sladký's scientific team managed to obtain seeds or fruits of many plant species. Especially the in vitro fertilization of maize met with an exceedingly wide scientific acceptance. Sladký also studied the in vitro formation of potato micro-tubers. Following his study stay in Great Britain, Sladký successfully elaborated further methods of explant techniques.*

*Prof. Sladký is the co-author of seven scientific monographs and textbooks, for instance the monographs "Experimental Plant Morphology" (Academia, Praha 1983) and "Experimental Morphogenesis and Integration of Plants" (Elsevier, Amsterdam 1991). Prof. Sladký published his scientific results in more than 60 original papers.*

*Prof. Sladký is a very popular teacher. Not only at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Masaryk University in Brno, but also as an external teacher at the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno. At the present time he is also engaged in teaching and scientific work at the Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno.*

*We wish to Prof. Zdeněk Sladký further success in his scientific work. His lifelong devotion to science, his brilliant scientific achievements and personal qualities have been an inspiration to us all.*

J. ŠEBÁNEK (Brno)