

DR. ANDOR HORVÁTH

(1913—1972)

ANDOR HORVÁTH was born on 5 November 1913 in Szabadka (Subotica, Yugoslavia). His general and secondary school studies were carried out in Pécs, Budapest and Szeged. From 1931 he was a student at the University of Szeged, where he obtained a diploma as a secondary school teacher in natural history and geography in 1936. He taught for several years in a secondary school, meantime also spending one year in the University of Szeged as an honorary assistant lecturer. He returned to the University for good in 1943, and was an appreciated lecturer and a fine research worker until his tragically swift death on 8 February 1972.

Even during his secondary school studies he showed a special interest in zoology, and primarily in malacology. He wrote his doctoral thesis in 1940 on this theme, under the title "Variations of form of shell-fish of the Szeged region, and their importance". The ever upwards increasing trend of his activities is illustrated by the fact that in 1955 he obtained the degree of Candidate in Biological Sciences for his outstanding results in the field of malacology, and he was then elected a member of the international society "Unitas Malacologica Europaea".

He was an excellent teacher and research worker. His whole life was devoted to teaching and training work and to science. His students went to his lectures gladly, for his treatment of the seemingly dry subject Taxology was picturesque, enjoyable and readily understood by all. Wherever he went he diligently collected and observed the snails and shell-fish, and studied their distributions and ecologies. He made a detailed investigation of the *Mollusca* fauna of several characteristic regions of Hungary (Börzsöny and Bükk mountains, marshes on the Great Hungarian Plain, sodic areas on the Great Plain, the Tisza and the districts bordering the Tisza).

During his research he made a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the *Mollusca* fauna in places with different environmental effects, explaining the variations on a pragmatic ecological basis, and primarily in accordance with the recorded microclimatic differences. He evaluated the material of Pleistocene origin obtained during borings in Hungary on the basis of a knowledge of the ecologies of recent *Mollusca* species, and used the results to divide the Pleistocene into various aspects. His conclusions drawn from the Pleistocene examinations are in agreement with the data obtained from independent pollen studies, and from the MILANKOVICH—BACSÁK astronomical chronology.

He had already studied the *Mollusca* fauna of the Hungarian section of the Tisza as early as the second half of the 1930's. His first publication appeared in 1943, on the *Mollusca* fauna of the Tisza. In the following years he investigated primarily the *Mollusca* of the lower section of the Hungarian Tisza (the Szeged Tisza section, the Maros mouth, and the dead arms to be found there), their distribution and their dynamism. He was a founder and constant leader of the Tisza Research Group,

formed in Szeged in 1956. He took part in the Tisza Research Expeditions, during which he studied the composition, distribution and biotopic variations of the *Mollusca* fauna in the complete Hungarian section of the Tisza, the mouths of its tributaries, and the larger, more important dead arms.

His early death prevented him from using his profound knowledge to complete the synthesis of the considerable and valuable scientific material which he had collected together. Nevertheless, in the course of his life he trained a number of malacology students, to whom he unselfishly passed on his particularly great knowledge, and who may be his worthy followers in the field of malacology.

DR. ANDOR HORVÁTH was the zoological editor of the journal „Tiscia”, which deals with the living world of the Tisza, and the scientific journal of the Attila József University in Szeged, „Acta Biologica”. He was a member of the Hungarian Biological Society and the Hungarian Hydrological Society.

Throughout his life he was a serious, quiet, peace-loving man. His colleagues and students appreciated, respected and loved him. In spite of his exceptionally wide knowledge, he continually strived to perfect himself. In addition to malacology, which became almost the mission of his life, he was interested in problems in all the biological subjects. Those who turned to him for advice could never come at an inconvenient time; he would always interrupt his work to offer help in the solution of the problem discussed.

And now we shall see him no more. But death cannot take him away without a trace. DR. ANDOR HORVÁTH's teachings and thoughts will live on in his students.

Of his 32 scientific publications, the following are his most important papers dealing with the *Mollusca* fauna of the Tisza:

- (1943): Adatok a Tisza folyó puhatestű faunájának ismeretéhez. (Data on the *Mollusca* fauna of the Tisza). — Acta Zool. Szeged 2, 21—32.
- (1955): Die Molluskenfauna der Theiss. — Acta Biol. Szeged 1, 174—180.
- (1957): Über die Molluskenfauna der Strecke zwischen Tiszabecs und Tiszafüred. — Acta Biol. Szeged 1—2, 94—97.
- (1958): Die Malakologischen Ergebnisse der II. Tisza-Expedition. — Acta Biol. Szeged 3—4, 216—218.
- (1962): Kurzbericht über die Molluskenfauna der zwei Tisza Expeditionen im Jahre 1958. — Opusc. Zool. Budapest 4, 77—83.
- (1966): About the molluska of Tisza before the river control. — Tiscia (Szeged) 2, 99—102.
- (1972): Aquatic Mollusca fauna of the flood area and dead arms of the Tisza. — Tiscia (Szeged) 7.

DR. D. GÁL