



phot. A. Pachoński

This volume is dedicated to
Professor LEON STUHLIK

Professor Leon Stuchlik's seventieth

Leon Stuchlik was born in Chorzów on 25 April 1931, son of Augustyn and Antonina Maciejewska. After the outbreak of World War II in 1939, under German occupation, he continued his elementary school education, first in Chorzów and then in Golasowice near Pawłowice (Silesian province). From 1945–1950 he attended the grammar school in Chorzów where he completed his secondary education. He then took up biological studies in the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow; from 1950–1953 for a 1st degree and from 1953 onwards for an MSc which he received on 13th June 1955. During that period he started floral and phytosociological investigations in the Polica mountain range, which were his passion for the next many years. His Master's thesis entitled *Forest vegetation of the Polica mountain range* was carried out under the guidance of Professor Bogumił Pawłowski.

Immediately after completing his studies he started work as a palaeobotanist-palynologist in the Department (since 1956 Institute) of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow under the direction Professor Władysław Szafer.

Leon Stuchlik's initial palaeobotanical research concerned Pleistocene floras. His first publication gave the results of palynological investigations of the central Poland glaciation deposits from Brzozowica near Będzin in Silesia. As a result of these studies he distinguished a new interstadial for the Pleistocene in Poland. Next, he changed his scientific specialization to Tertiary palynology which became his main field of interest, studying initially the palynology of Miocene deposits from Rypin in north-central Poland. A monograph of the pollen flora from this site, under the supervision of Professor Władysław Szafer, formed the basis of his doctoral studies. In this work he identified numerous fossil sporomorph taxa, at that time new to Poland, with excellent photographic documentation. He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1963 at the Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow. At the same time Leon Stuchlik did not forsake his greatest passion: recent botany. Together with his wife Barbara, whom he had married in 1955, he continued the geobotanical research which he had begun during his early university years in the Polica range of the Beskid Wysoki Mountains, spending all his free time (holidays) on this activity. As a result of these studies the geobotanical characteristics of the Polica mountain range were published (1962, 1968a, b).

After gaining his Ph.D., Leon Stuchlik was sent by Professor Władysław Szafer to Stockholm for a seven-month scientific training period under the guidance of Professor Gunnar Erdtman, who at that time was a leading scientific authority in palynotaxonomy. In the Palynological Laboratory in Solna near Stockholm Leon Stuchlik carried out palynotaxonomic studies of the family Polemoniaceae. At the end of his stay in Sweden he made a trip to the north, to Lapland, to become familiar with tundra vegetation. The result of his Stockholm studies was a monograph entitled *Pollen morphology of the Polemoniaceae* (1967b) with which he initiated palynotaxonomic studies in Poland. This work provided the basis for his habilitation thesis which was begun in the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at the Jagiellonian University in 1968. He obtained the degree of habilitated doctor of science in palaeobotany in 1970. The next year he left for Cuba for the first time where, in the Institute of Botany of the Cuban Academy of Sciences in Havana, he organized a palynological laboratory and trained its future staff. One person from this group, Lic. Milagros Moncada, carried out later independent research and wrote her doctoral thesis in palynotaxonomy. Leon Stuchlik visited Cuba twice more, in 1974 and 1981. Resulting from these visits were publications concerning the allergic pollen of Cuba, the morphology of the Cuban Gymnospermae and descriptions of the Cuban representatives of the families Chloranthaceae, Canellaceae and Phytolaccaceae (with M. Moncada). Also the preparation of a *Palynological Atlas of Cuba* was planned, but although most of the material had been col-

lected, the project was not realized because M. Moncada had emigrated to the United States and cooperation with the Institute of Botany of the Cuban Academy of Sciences ceased.

In the 1970^s Leon Stuchlik carried out palynological studies of the Nowy Sącz Miocene and Preglacial deposits from central Poland (Ponurzyca near Otwock, Kijewice, Ruzsce, Lasek and others). His publications concerning the Preglacial are among the few detailing characteristics of the vegetation of Poland during that period.

In 1976 Leon Stuchlik accompanied Professor Harald Walther from the Staatliches Museum für Mineralogie und Geologie zu Dresden, on a joint scientific expedition to India from which he brought back abundant herbarium material, numerous photographs of plants and valuable observations on subtropical vegetation. He summarized the results of this expedition jointly in a publication with H. Walther (1982). Leon Stuchlik made two more expeditions to India in 1995 and 1998, carrying out scientific observations and investigations on the floral composition of Tertiary relict forests from sites in the Himalayas, comparing them with Tertiary floras from Poland. To honour Leon Stuchlik for his contribution to Polish-Indian cooperation, he was awarded an International Medal of the Palaeobotanical Society, Lucknow in 1999.

In 1977 the next important publication (prepared in cooperation with Dr. hab. Janina Oszast) concerning the palynology of the Polish Tertiary was issued. This summarized the results of many years' palynological studies of the Tertiary in Podhale, performed by L. Stuchlik and J. Oszast on material from deep prospecting drillings, and presented a synthetic description of Neogene vegetation history in the whole area of southern Poland. The next year, 1978, Leon Stuchlik made a two-month trip to the Federal Republic of Germany, visiting all the more important scientific centres of palaeobotanical and palynological studies.

During the same period Leon Stuchlik obtained material for palynological study, collected by Professor Krzysztof Birkenmajer during the Antarctic expeditions of the Polish Academy of Sciences to King George Island. This material was the basis of what was, at that time, pioneer palynological investigation of Tertiary deposits in Antarctica (1981a) and subfossil moss from King George Island (1985).

In 1982 Leon Stuchlik was appointed Head of the Department of Palaeobotany of the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and has successfully held this position until the present day. He was well prepared for this position, having been for many years assistant to Professor Andrzej Środoń, a former leader of the Department from 1961–1978. During Leon Stuchlik's tenure of office, the staff of the Department of Palaeobotany has been engaged in intense scientific activity, not only nationally but also on an international scale.

In 1982 and 1984 Leon Stuchlik participated in two scientific expeditions to the Democratic People's Republic of Northern Korea (North Korea). From both expeditions he brought back rich herbarium collections for the Institute of Botany PAS and surface samples for palynological analysis.

In 1983 Leon Stuchlik obtained the title of professor.

In the 1980^s, cooperation between Leon Stuchlik and Czech and Slovakian palaeobotanists and palynologists was established. This cooperation, focused at first on investigations of the Miocene of Chebska Panev, was of basic importance for later stratigraphic correlation of the Neogene in central Europe and was rewarded in 1983 by the Polish and Czechoslovakian Academies of Sciences. During the same period long-standing cooperation with palynologists from the L. Davitashvili Institute of Palaeobiology in Tbilisi, Georgia, began. Leon Stuchlik stayed there in 1980, 1986, 1989 and 1990, participating in many scientific expeditions to the Caucasus. The main research topics of this cooperation were stratigraphic correlation of the Neogene floras of the Central and Eastern Paratethys and the palynotaxonomy of spores from the genus *Pteris* (in cooperation with Dr. Irina Shatilova), and later on, studies of surface samples in sites of Tertiary relict vegetation (with Professor Eliso Kvavadze). These last studies, comparing surface pollen spectra with the recent vegetation of these sites, were not only the first of their kind in the Polish palynological literature but also pioneer studies on a European scale at that time. In 1989 Leon Stuchlik was awarded a prize for cooperation with Georgian palaeobotanists by the Polish and USSR Academies of Sciences.

During the same period Leon Stuchlik cooperated with Dr. Svetlana Syabryay from the Institute of Geological Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kiev investigat-

ing stratigraphic correlation of the Neogene of the Central Paratethys and the western part of the Eastern Paratethys. Their work contributed much to the knowledge of this subject.

Simultaneously Leon Stuchlik continued his studies on the Polish Neogene; in the 1980^s they were concentrated on material from the brown-coal mine in Bełchatów. He coordinated palynological studies and investigations of macroscopic remains from this site. Their aim was to gain knowledge of the genesis and stratigraphy of a deposit, to determine its age and that of the coal-forming plant communities, and to establish a stratigraphic sequence from the early Miocene to the youngest Pliocene. Leon Stuchlik was also the author of many expert reports concerning Neogene and Pleistocene deposits from different sites in Poland, prepared for the State Geological Institute and geological enterprises.

In 1987 Leon Stuchlik organized a palaeobotanical excursion in Poland in conjunction with the 14th *International Botanical Congress* which was held in West Berlin.

In 1989 the International Symposium *Palaeofloristic and palaeoclimatic changes during the Cretaceous and Tertiary* was held in Bratislava; it was organized by Dr. Eva Planderová from the Geologický Ústav Dionýza Štúra in cooperation with Czech and Slovak palaeobotanists. This event marked the opening of a new phase in the palynology of the Neogene of central and eastern Europe, based on close cooperation among Polish, Slovakian, Czech, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Hungarian and Yugoslavian palynologists. Leon Stuchlik played an important role in this cooperation which resulted in, among others, many joint publications dealing with changes in the Neogene palaeoflora and palaeoclimate in central and eastern Europe, based on palynological studies. Questions such as the relative proportions of arctotertiary and palaeotropical elements in the Neogene palynoflora from central Europe and their importance for the interpretation of palaeoclimate were discussed. During this period, Leon Stuchlik's very close cooperation with a group of Polish palynologists of the Tertiary allowed work on the *Atlas of pollen and spores of the Polish Neogene* to begin. The first volume, comprising spores of the Polish Neogene, was published in 2001, and others dealing with pollen grains of the Gymnospermae and Angiospermae are in preparation.

The 1990^s were a period of intense organizational activity for Professor Stuchlik. He became the Director of the W. Szafer Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow for three tenures of office (1990–1999), which limited considerably the time he could devote to scientific research. During this time he organized in Cracow two great scientific conferences: *The Second International Conference on the Preservation of Botanical Collections* from June 26–29, 1997 and *The Fifth European Palaeobotanical-Palynological Conference* from June 26–30, 1998. He himself participated in many important scientific conferences dealing with studies on the Tertiary, primarily in Europe, but also in the United States and China. Also in the 1990^s, cooperation between Professor Stuchlik and Professor Concepción Álvarez-Ramis from the University of Madrid in Spain developed; it focused on studies of the palaeobiochemical remains of *Glyptostrobus* from the Neogene of Lipnica Mała in Orawa.

A separate area of Professor Stuchlik's activity is editorial work, to which he devotes much time and attention. Since the initiation of publication of *World Pollen and Spore Flora* (1973) he has been a member of its Editorial Board and since 1987 up to 1996 a member of the Editorial Board of *Grana*. In 1986 he took over editorship of *Acta Palaeobotanica*. His leadership has not only maintained a high scientific standard and changed the publication's typography, but, since 2000, has brought about recognition of its position as an *International Journal of Palaeobotany and Palynology*. Thanks to his work as editor, the *Proceedings of the 5th European Palaeobotanical-Palynological Conference* were published. At present he is editor of the *Atlas of pollen and spores of the Polish Neogene*. From 1985–1998 he was president of the Editorial Board of *Wiadomości Botaniczne*, a periodical of the Polish Botanical Society. He was also a permanent referee of papers for *Excerpta Botanica* on palaeobotany, palynology and archaeobotany from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the USSR (1968–1996).

Professor Stuchlik has been active in many other capacities, of which we may cite the following.

Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (since 1991);

Foreign corresponding member of the Sociedad Cubana de Alergología (since 1980);

Member of the Biological Commission of the Division of the PAS in Cracow and the Commission of Quaternary Palaeogeography of the PAS (actually Polish Academy of Art and Sciences)
 Member of the Disciplinary Commission on behalf of Section II of the PAS;
 President of the Committee of Botany of the PAS (1987–1990) and vice-president (1991–1998);
 Member of the Scientific Councils of the W. Szafer Institute of Botany, PAS, in Cracow;
 Member of the Scientific Council of the Museum of the Earth, PAS, in Warsaw;
 Member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Dendrology, PAS, in Kórnik;
 Member of the Board of W. Szafer Polish Botany Foundation;
 Member of the International Organization of Palaeobotany, Polish Botanical Society (since 1955, and from 1981–1984 a member of the Board of its Palaeobotanical Section);
 Member of the Polish Geological Society (from 1980–1983 a vice-president of the Palaeontological Section).

During his many years of scientific activity Professor Stuchlik has played the role of palynological tutor to many young scientists from the Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Russia and Vietnam and many scientific centres in Poland, as well as organizing and supervising scientific training in palynology in Poland and abroad. Under his guidance 4 doctor's theses have been prepared: Dr. Tranh Dinh Nghia from Vietnam, holder of a scholarship from the Jagiellonian University; Dr. Krystyna Skawińska from the W. Szafer Institute of Botany PAS in Cracow; Dr. Aleksandra Kohlman-Adamska from the Museum of Earth PAS in Warsaw and Dr. Elżbieta Worobiec in her the Postgraduate Doctoral Study at the Jagiellonian University. He has also revised 7 doctor's theses, 5 dissertations for the degree of habilitated doctor and 4 titles of professor.

In 1978 he was awarded the Secretary's scientific prize of Section II of the Polish Academy of Sciences and in 1986 the Golden Cross of Merit and Jubilee Medal presented at a ceremony to mark the Centenary of W. Szafer's birth and the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Institute of Botany PAS in Cracow.

Finally, it should be mentioned that Professor Stuchlik has provided many excellent photographs and slides documenting plants which he has seen during his scientific expeditions. Although the major part of his scientific output concerns palaeobotany, above all he was and is a botanist, as is revealed in his interpretation of the results of palaeobotanical research.

We hope that, after his retirement, Professor Stuchlik will find more time for the completion of his scientific projects, free from all organizational and administrative duties. We wish him good health and many years of further activity.

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