BIENNIAL REPORT

INSTITUTE OF VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

2005-2006



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Biennial Report 2005-2006

Periodical continuation of the former Institute's bulletins Vertebratologické Zprávy (1969–1987), Zprávy ÚSEB (1988–1991) and the ILE Biennial Report (1993–1994).

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PREFACE

I am glad to introduce this traditional report summarizing the main results of scientific activities of the Institute during the last two years. The most important event in this period was the transformation of the Institute into a public research institution. This process was completed at the end of 2006.



The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has undergone profound changes in relation to varied scientific and organisational

aspects since its foundation in 1993. This transformation included also human resources and the Academy has become a modern, democratically administrated cluster of autonomous, non-university research institutes. The institutes of the Academy of Sciences were state contributory organisations, which was quite unusual legal form within the European Union. The legal subjectivity of the institutes was restricted, and this fact weakened their independency in respect of both the economic area and the cooperation with other subjects.

The acceptance of Act No. 341/2005 Coll. on Public Research Institutions made it possible to remove these deficiencies. The act introduced a new form of legal entity – a public institution, with principal activities in the research area and with significant provision of an infrastructure for research. Besides the main research performance, the Institute may now realize also secondary and other activities for profit, subject to legal restrictions.

After January 1, 2007, further transformation steps follow. The members of the Council of the Institute have been elected, and public competition for the post of the director has been announced. All these changes will certainly have a profound influence on the life and the research performance of the Institute in the future.

The last two years can be considered fruitful for the Institute and its staff. The fellows were particularly successful in raising funds for grant projects. The institutional budget assigned from the state contribution in the frame of the Institutional Research Plan achieved approximately 22 and 23 million CZK in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Additional 14 million CZK were provided in both the years for investment into laboratory equipment and maintenance of buildings. Research grants and diverse contracting funding contributed to the budget with 16 and 26.5 million CZK in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

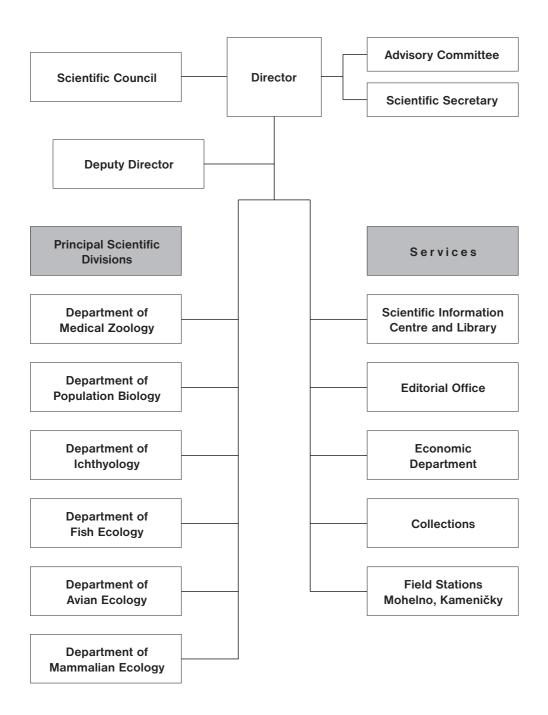
In the previous two years, the Institute employed 61 fellows paid from the institutional sources, and additional 36 fellows were contracted on the basis of research grant funding. In the respective period, 18 foreign workers were employed.

The scientific achievements of the Institute are summarized in the list of publications. Altogether, 267 scientific contributions authored by the fellows of the Institute were published in 2005–2006. Almost 100 papers appeared in international journals included in databases of the Web of Science. The total impact factor of these publications was 69.7 in 2005 and 67.1 in 2006, what indicates a remarkable increase in comparison with 2003 and 2004 (total impact factor of 40.4 and 46.9, respectively). I hope the Institute will continue this successful development towards research excellence also in the next years.

Jan Zima

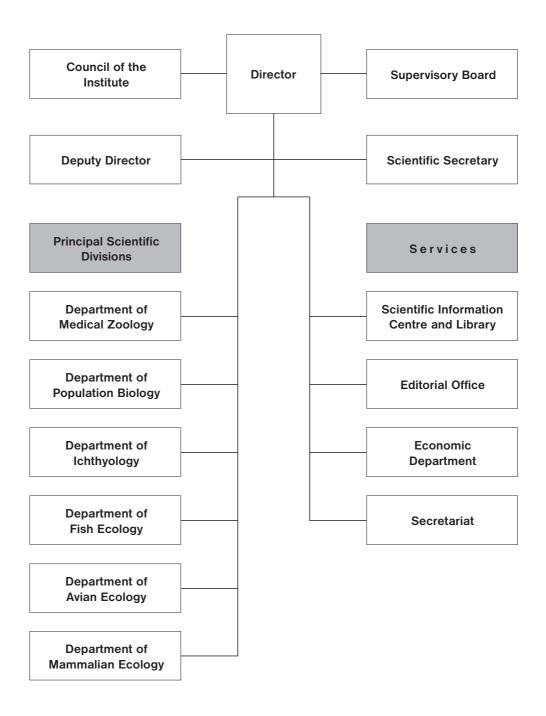
STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTE OF VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(until December 31, 2006)



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Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Zdeněk Ř E H Á K, PhD

(Masaryk University, Brno)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Institutional Research Plan

AV0Z60930519 Biodiversity and ecology of vertebrates: implications in conservation and sustainable management of natural populations - J. Zima, 2005-2010

Projects supported by the Grant Agency of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

- **IAA6093403** Evolutionary determinants of brood parasitism in ducks P. Musil (Charles University, Prague), M. Honza (IVB AS CR), 2004-2008
- IAA6093404 Species diversity and ecology of selected West African vertebrates P. Koubek (IVB AS CR), M. Gelnar (Masaryk University, Brno), P. Hejcmanová (Czech University of Agriculture, Prague), 2004-2008
- IAA600930506 Behavioral and genetic study of prezygotic isolation barriers in the house mouse hybrid zone J. Piálek, 2005-2008
- **IAA600930605** Evolution of antiparasitic strategies of selected hosts towards avian brood parasitism M. Honza, 2006-2010
- IAA600930608 The role of MHC in sexual selection observational and experimental study in three model vertebrate species J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), A. Šimková (Masaryk University, Brno), 2006–2008
- IAA600930609 Genetic structure of chamois populations in Central Europe J. Zima, 2006-2009
- IAA600930611 (Re)emerging mosquito-borne virus diseases Z. Hubálek (IVB AS CR), J. Januška (Institute of Public Health, Ostrava), 2006-2008
- **IBS5045111** Molecular and other genetic markers applied in conservation of populations of endangered, rare and vanishing fish species in the Czech Republic P. Ráb (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), V. Lusková (IVB AS CR), 2001-2005
- **KJB6005301** What happens when *Reynoutria* taxa reproduce by means other than vegetative? K. Bímová (Institute of Botany AS CR, Průhonice), J. Piálek (IVB AS CR), 2003–2006
- **KJB600930501** The impact of mating tactics on individual reproductive success and population parameters in the European bitterling: behavioural and genetic approach M. Reichard, 2005-2007
- **KJB600930508** European reed warbler populations across a migratory divide: insights into migration by analyses of DNA sequences, stable isotopes and ringing recoveries P. Procházka, 2005-2007
- **KJB600930610** Phylogeography and evolutionary history of a semi-fossorial rodent *Microtus subterraneus* N. Martínková, 2006–2008
- KJB600930611 Brood parasitism as an alternative reproductive strategy of ducks: genetically endocrinological approach - R. Ležalová, 2006-2008
- **KJB600930613** Diversity of cultivable microorganisms of ixodid ticks, recognized vectors of vertebrate pathogens I. Rudolf (IVB AS CR), P. Švec (Masaryk University, Brno), 2006–2008
- KJB600930615 Feeding behavior, parasite infections and self-medicative abilities of an introduced chimpanzee population, Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania K. Petrželková, 2006-2008

1QS500450513 Population and genetic structure of brown trout and grayling as groundwork for efficient management of fisheries in salmonid waters – V. Šlechta (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), K. Halačka (IVB AS CR), 2005–2009

Projects supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic

- GA206/03/0726 Ecology of emerging arthropod-borne microorganisms Z. Hubálek, 2003-2005
- GA206/03/0757 Assessment of population size and population structure of Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) in different habitats by a non-invasive genetic method J. Zima, 2003–2005
- GA206/04/2003 Ecological interactions in populations of small rodents E. Tkadlec (Palacký University, Olomouc), I. Pavlík (Veterinary Research Institute, Brno), M. Heroldová (IVB AS CR), 2004-2006
- GA206/05/2159 Genetic, population and reproductive variability of invasive fish species, *Carassius "gibelio"* with alternating bisexual/asexual reproduction in central Europe V. Lusková (IVB AS CR), J. Flajšhans (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), V. Šlechta (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), 2005-2007
- GA206/06/0851 Extra-pair fertilizations and the strength of sexual selection in socially monogamous passerine T. Albrecht (IVB AS CR), P. Muclinger (Charles University, Prague), 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0953 Phenotypic plasticity of thermal physiology traits in newts L. Gvoždík, 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0954 Intraspecific variability of populations of two cryptic bat species of genus Pipistrellus in Central Europe - Z. Řehák (Masaryk university, Brno), J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0955 Genetics J. Piálek, 2006-2008
- GA524/03/0061 Comparative studies on dracunculoid nematodes, with special reference to agents of serious diseases of fish F. Moravec (Institute of Parasitology AS CR, České Budějovice), V. Baruš (IVB AS CR), 2003-2005
- GA524/04/1115 Fluctuating asymmetry in fish parasites: a new aproach to assess environmental stress of aquatic ecosystem? B. Koubková (Masaryk University, Brno), M. Machala (Veterinary Research Institute, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2004-2006
- GA524/04/1128 MHC class IIB genes of European cyprinid fish: their genetic variability and evolution in relation to the host life-history traits and parasitism A. Šimková (Masaryk university, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2004–2006
- GA524/06/0264 Ciliates of genus *Troglodytella*: pathogens or endosymbionts? Novel approach towards veterinary care and understanding digestion in apes D. Modrý (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), K. Petrželková (IVB AS CR), S. Kišidayová (Institute of Animal Pysiology SAS, Košice, Slovakia), 2006–2008
- GA524/06/0687 Importance of red fox in different ecosystems of Central Europe J. Červený (IVB AS CR), M. Anděra (National Museum, Prague), K. Šťastný (Czech University of Agriculture, Prague), 2006-2008
- GD524/05/H536 Evolutionary ecological analysis of biological systems: research center for PhD studies M. Chytrý (Masaryk university, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2005-2008
- **GP206/03/P134** Feeding strategy of large herbivore mammals between forest and field habitats J. Kamler, 2003–2005

- GP206/06/P152 Reproductive isolating mechanisms in *Nothobranchius* fishes (Aplocheilidae)
 M. Reichard, 2006–2008
- GP206/06/P302 Genetic structure of black grouse populations in the Czech Republic J. Svobodová, 2006-2008
- **GP524/05/P291** Parasitism and invasive species: effect of parasite infection on the biology of *Neogobius kessleri* in its native and introduced range M. Ondračková, 2005–2006

Projects supported by the Ministry of Agriculture

- GAZV QF3028 Development of new technologies of rearing commercially important riverine species of fish and crayfish endangered by environment degradation P. Kozák (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), J. Barthová (Charles University, Prague), P. Spurný (Mendel Agriculture and Forestry University, Brno), S. Navrátil (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), M. Prokeš (IVB AS CR), 2003–2007
- GAZV QF3029 Harmonization with the EU in application of the principles of pharmacovigilancy in aquaculture in the Czech Republic V. Piačková (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), J. Hajšlová (Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague), Z. Svobodová (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), M. Prokeš (IVB AS CR), T. Barth (Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry AV CR, Prague), 2003–2007
- GAZV QF4192 Methodology of evaluation of damages caused by game to field crops - J. Kamler (IVB AS CR), J. Dvořák (Mendel Agriculture and Forestry University, Brno), 2004-2006

Projects supported by the Ministry of Environment

SM/6/3/05 Genetic diversity of endangered fish species - base of effective protection of biodiversity - S. Lusk, 2005-2007

Management plan of large carnivores (brown bear, wolf, lynx) in the Czech Republic - P. Koubek, 2003-2005

Projects supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

- LC522 Ichthyoparasitology Research Center M. Gelnar (Masaryk University, Brno), T. Scholz (Institute of Parasitology AS CR, České Budějovice), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR) Brno), 2005–2009
- LC06073 Biodiversity Research Center P. Kindlman (Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology AS CR, České Budějovice), and other seven partners, including J. Zima (IVB AS CR), 2005-2011

International projects

European Union - 6th Framework Programme

Integrated project EDEN (no. 010284-2) Emerging diseases in a changing European environment (coordinated by CIRAD Montpellier, France) – Z. Hubálek, 2004–2008

- Integrated project MODELKEY (no. SSPI-CT-2003-511237-2) Models for assessing and forecasting the impact of environmental key pollutants on marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity (coordinated by Umweltforschungszentrum Leipzig Halle GmbH, Germany) P. Jurajda, 2005-2010
- Integrated consortium on ticks and tick-borne diaseases (ICTTD 3) L. Grubhofer (Biology Center AS CR, České Budějovice), Z. Hubálek (IVB AS CR), 2004-2008
- Marie Curie research training network SEXASEX (no. MRTN-CT-2004-512492) Sex to asex: a case study on transitions and coexistence between sexual and asexual reproduction (coordinated by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium) J. Zima, 2004-2009
- Marie Curie intra-European fellowship PHYLOMICROTUS (no. 24956) Phylogeography of the Orkney vole *Microtus arvalis orcadensis* (cooperation with University of York, UK) N. Martínková, 2006–2008
- **Project INTAS** (no. 03-51-4030) A multidisciplinary study of hybrid zones in the common shrew (coordinated by the University of York, UK) J. Zima, 2004–2007

Other EU projects

- **European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme** Integrating population genetics and conservation biology: Merging theoretical, experimental and applied approaches J. Bryja (member of the steering committee), 2004–2009
- **European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme** Thermal adaptation in ectotherms: Linking life history, physiology, behaviour and genetics L. Gvoždík (member of the steering committee), 2006–2011
- Large Scale Facility Project (no. HPRI-CT-2001-00180) Intraspecific diversity in selected cyprinid fish species in the conditions of Central Europe (coordinated by the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK) J. Mendel, 2005
- Bavarian Interreg-IIIA-Project Wildlife and human in Bavarian-Czech-Austrian border region
 example of the otter (cooperation with the Bavarian Forest Institute and Technical University of Munich, Germany)
 P. Hájková, 2006–2007
- IUCN and European Commission Assessment of European mammal species J. Zima (participant), 2006-2007

Bilateral projects

- PPP Programme DAAD AS CR (project no. D2-CZ30/04-05) Mechanisms of speciation in rodents - H. Burda (University Essen-Duisburg, Germany), J. Zima (IVB AS CR), 2004-2005
- Programme KONTAKT (project no. 26) Zoogeography, taxonomy and phylogeography of mammals in south-eastern Europe, Asia Minor and South Africa - V. Vohralík (Charles University, Prague), J. Zima (IVB AS CR), B. Kryštufek (University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia), 2005-2006
- Programme KONTAKT (project no. 144) Variability of social system in *Apodemus* mice (Rodentia) - M. Stanko (Institute of Zoology SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia), J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), 2004-2005
- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Brno Bioarchaelogy of the Holocene populations of Central Europe: reconstruction of mobility and manipulative behaviour V. Sládek (IVB

- AS CR), M. Berner (Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria), P. Galeta (University of West Bohemia, Plzeň), 2006
- Integrated Bilateral Project Development of new methods for the laboratory diagnostics of West Nile Virus disease in human and some other animals (cooperation with Istituto Zooprofilatico e Sperimentale, Teramo, Italy) - Z. Hubálek, 2004-2005

Individual projects

- **Leverhulme Trust (UK)**, project Adaptation and coevolution in an unusual symbiosis (cooperation with University of Leicester, UK) M. Reichard, 2003-2005
- Natural Environment Research Council (UK), project Stoats and the Irish question (cooperation with University of York, UK) N. Martínková, 2005
- The Leakey Foundation (USA), general grant The possible role of ciliate (*Troglodytella abrassarti*) in chimpanzee hind gut fermentation K. Petrželková, 2006–2007.
- **British Ecological Society (UK)**, early career project grant (ref no. 551-617) Phenotypic correlates of lifetime reproductive success in the bitterling fish M. Reichard, 2006-2007

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Books, textbooks, edited proceedings

- BERENCSI G., KHAN A., HALOUZKA J. (eds), 2005. Emerging Biological Threat. NATO Science Series. Life and Behavioural Sciences 370. IOS Press, Amsterdam, 192 pp. ISBN 1-58603-555-X.
- BRYJA J., ZUKAL J. (eds), 2006. Zoologické dny Brno 2006. ÚBO AV ČR, Brno, 269 pp. ISBN 80-903329-4-3.
- BUDIL I., BLAŽEK V., SLÁDEK V.(eds), 2005. Dějiny, rasa a kultura. Vydavatelství a nakladatelství Aleny Králové, Ústí nad Labem, 99 pp. ISBN 80-903412-4-1.
- CÍLEK V. (ed.), LOŽEK V., ŠKODA A., NĚMEC L., FATKA O., LITOCHLEB J., ČERNÝ P., SEJKORA J., LITOCHLEBOVÁ E., NEKUT B., BRUTHANS J. B., BENEŠOVÁ L., ŠNAJDROVÁ J., KOMÍNKOVÁ D., SOFRON J., HLAVÁČEK R., KARLÍK P., NESVADBOVÁ J., POJER F., ABSOLON K., ANDĚRA M., BOBEK M., BUFKA L., ČERVENÝ J., FISCHEROVÁ J., FISCHER D., FUCHS R., HLAVÁČ J., HOMOLKA P., JÍCHA V., MACEK J., PAVLÍČKO A., PEŠKE L., RIEGERT J., SEDLÁČEK O., ŠÍMEK J., ŠVÁTORA M., URBAN S., DEJMAL I., PETŘÍČEK V., ČÁKA J., PALOWSKI E., MIKULÁŠ R., KESLOVÁ J., BAŠE M., KENDER J., SCHMELZOVÁ R., SMEJTEK L., DURDÍK T., VELFL J., VURM K., MAJER J., HOFMANN G., BŘEZOVSKÝ M., DAŇKOVSKÁ D., TRANTINA V., HOYER H., VÁŇOVÁ K., 2005. Střední Brdy. Ministerstvo zemědělství ČR, Příbram, 377 pp. ISBN 80-7084-266-0
- DVOŘÁK J., HOMOLKA M., HEROLDOVÁ M., KAMLER J., CERKAL R., LUJC J., SKLÁDANKA J., DOLEŽAL P., 2006. Atlas poškození polních plodin savci. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno, 35 pp. ISBN 80-7375-019-8.
- DVOŘÁK J., KAMLER J., VACA D., 2006. Problematika škod působených zvěří na zemědělských plodinách. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno, 42 pp. ISBN 80-7157-939-4.
- HANEL L., LUSK S., 2005. Ryby a mihule České republiky: rozšíření a ochrana. ČSOP, Vlašim, 448 pp. ISBN 80-86327-49-3.
- KIRSCHNER J., RÁB P., ROUDNÁ M., STAŇKOVÁ J., VILÍMOVÁ J., ZIMA J., 2006. Biologická rozmanitost. Identifikace priorit a rozvoje kapacit pro plnění závazků České republiky vyplývajících z Úmluvy o biologické rozmanitosti. Ministerstvo životního prostředí ČR a UNDP/GEF, Praha, 228 pp. ISBN 80-7212-390-4
- LUSK S. (ed.), 2005. Distribution, Taxonomy and Genetic Status of the European Species of the Genus Gobio. Folia Zoologica 54, Suppl. 1, 98pp.
- LUSK S., LUSKOVÁ V. (eds), 2006. Biodiverzita ichtyofauny České republiky (VI). ÚBO AV ČR, Brno, 162 pp. ISBN 80-903329-6-X.
- PROCHÁZKA P., SEDLÁČEK O. (eds), 2006. 8th Workshop of the Southeastern European Bird Migration Network (SEEN). ÚBO AV ČR, Brno, 56 pp. ISBN 80-903329-5-1.

Chapters in books

- ALBRECHT T., BRYJA J., HÁJKOVÁ P., MIKULÍČEK P., ZIMA J., 2005. Genetická diverzita a metodické aspekty jejího výzkumu. In: Vačkář D. (ed.), Ukazatele změn biodiverzity. Academia, Praha; 24-42
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Juraj P E Š K O Ladislava Š E V Č Í K O V Á

Research priorities

Research is focused on the ecology of selected microbial pathogens (including new emerging diseases), the causative agents of human and animal infections. The phenomenon of natural focality is studied in respect of the role of wild endotherm vertebrates (hosts or reservoirs) and hematophagous arthropods (vectors) and under effects of the recently globally changing natural conditions.

Main research topics:

- arboviruses (i.e. viruses transmitted by ticks, mosquitoes and other hematophagous arthropods, such as the West Nile, Sindbis, Ťahyňa, and tick-borne encephalitis viruses)
- spirochetes (Borrelia burgdorferi, the agent of Lyme borreliosis) and some other bacterial agents
- circulation of these pathogens in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems under changing natural conditions including human impact
- development and optimalisation of a new molecular-biological methods for the detection and characterization of the pathogens studied
- prophylactic strategy establishment and prevention of free-living vertebrates and humans in relation to preventive medicine (human and veterinary), environmental protection, and nature conservation



Staff of the Department of Medical Zoology - right to left: J. Halouzka, Z. Juřicová, Z. Hubálek, L. Ševčíková, I. Rudolf, S. Šikutová, J. Peško. (Photo by R. Krbeček).

Selected research results

Migratory birds and avian influenza A virus H5N1 - its spread in Eurasia, possible introduction to America and continental dispersal

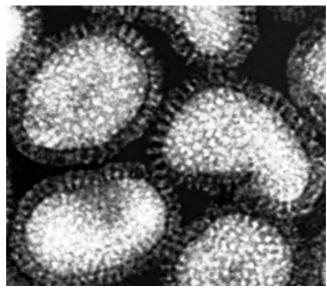
Water anseriform birds are the reservoir of a majority of influenza A viruses, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Marked lethality of its H5N1 subtype seemed to limit the role of migratory birds in the dispersal. However, the situation changed as HPAI H5N1 virus has expanded rapidly across Asia and into Europe and Africa, and migratory birds contributed to this dispersal. Birds could theoretically introduce H5N1 virus to the Western Hemisphere through migration, vagrancy and translocation by people (bird trade). Vagrants and migratory birds are not likely inter-hemispheric introductory hosts; import of infected domestic or pet birds is more probable. In the case of successful introduction, the virus might spread over the continent easily, with migratory anseriform birds (swans, geese, and ducks) playing a similar role as in Eurasia.

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RAPPOLE J.H., HUBÁLEK, Z., 2006: Birds and influenza H5N1 virus movement to and within North America. Emerging Infectious Diseases 12: 1486-1492.



Virions of the influenza A virus (WHO 2006).

Import of West Nile virus infection in the Czech Republic

We report West Nile virus infection of the central nervous system in a 69-year-old man, residing in North Moravia (Czech Republic), who visited the USA from 6 July to 31 August 2002. He developed fever with fatigue at the end of his USA stay. He was hospitalized after his return with fever up to 39.5 °C, fatigue, anorexia, dizziness, insomnia, blurred speech, and a marked bradypsychism. A significant increase of antibodies neutralizing West Nile virus was detected between the first (1:16) and second (1:256) blood serum sample. The pacient recovered gradually. This is the first recorded human case of West Nile fever imported to the Czech Republic.

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Applications of research results

Effects of forest clearing on the abundance of *Ixodes ricinus* ticks and the prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l.

Questing *Ixodes ricinus* ticks were collected on a forest trail that had been completely cleared of shrubs and ground vegetation in winter 2002 and on a nearby control uncleared forest transect in South Moravia (Czech Republic). Samples were collected each May in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Nymphal ticks were 3.4, 1.9 and 1.2 times less frequent on cleared forest than on uncleared trails in the three perspective years, whereas adult tick abundance was 27.2, 4.0 and

2.2 times lower, respectively. The ticks were examined for borreliae by dark-field microscopy: prevalence of nymphal ticks infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* (12.6% to 20.0%) did not differ significantly between the cleared and uncleared trail during the three years. In conclusion, the habitat modification appeared to result in a decreased abundance of *I. ricinus* as well as a reduced frequency of infected ticks (and thus indirectly a lower potential risk of Lyme borreliosis), which lasted, however, for only two years. Eight cultures of borreliae isolated from the ticks were all identified as the "ornithophilic" genomic species *Borrelia garinii*, possibly indicating a greater role of forest birds than that of forest rodents as the hosts of immature *I. ricinus* in the tick (and borrelial) colonization of the cleared part of the forest.

HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., JUŘICOVÁ Z., 2003: Longitudinal surveillance of the tick *Ixodes ricinus* for borreliae. Medical and Veterinary Entomology 17: 46-51.

HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., JUŘICOVÁ Z., ŠIKUTOVÁ S., RUDOLF I., 2006: Effect of forest clearing on the abundance of *Ixodes ricinus* ticks and the prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. Medical and Veterinary Entomology 20: 166–172.



L. Ševčíková handling biological material in a hazard box. (Photo by I. Rudolf)

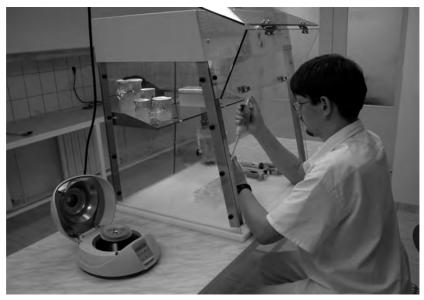
International cooperation

Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato in the tick *Ixodes ricinus* in the Styrian Mountains of Austria

A total of 691 Ixodes ricinus ticks (22 males, 39 females, 501 nymphs and 129 larvae) were collected by flagging method from vegetation in 11 areas at altitudes between 789 and 1350 m above sea level in mixed woodland with pastureland and cattle in the province of Styria (Austria). They were examined for presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. by dark field microscopy and PCR. Attempts to cultivate borreliae were made in BSK-H medium. The overall positivity rate of all collected ticks (excepting larvae) was 10.9%: 9.1% in males, 17.9% in females and 10.4% in nymphs. The larvae examined showed no presence of B. burgdorferi s.l. The mean infection rate of the vector of Lyme disease in the collection area of the highest altitude in this study - and the highest reported in Europe (Gaberl, 1350 m a.s.l.) was 6.4%: 1/9 males, 2/18 females, and 6/114 (5.3%) nymphs were positive. Culture attempts were positive in 12 cases and species identification showed eight isolates of Borrelia afzelii and four of Borrelia garinii. Three additional positive results found by PCR method (negative by dark field microscopy) were identified twice as B. afzelii and once as B. garinii. This study showed that the risk of acquiring of Lyme disease in habitats at higher altitudes is limited due to a lower density of I. ricinus and lesser infection rate of ticks than at lower altitudes in Central Europe, nevertheless it does exist.

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STÜNZNER D., HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., WENDELIN I., SIXL W., MARTH E., 2006. Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato in the tick *Ixodes ricinus* in the Styrian mountains of Austria. Wiener klinische Wochenschrift: the Middle European Journal of Medicine 118: 682–685.



I. Rudolf preparing samples for PCR procedure. (Photo by J. Halouzka)

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Mgr. Monika Š U G E R K O V Á
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Research priorities

The studies are performed on both laboratory and natural populations. Empirical data from observations and experiments supplemented by simulation modelling are used to investigate important questions of evolutionary biology, such as (model organisms given in parentheses):

- hybrid zones as barriers against gene flow and their role in speciation (Mus, Sorex, Triturus)
- study of factors affecting population structure (fish, bats and mammals)
- links between life history traits, adaptive genetic variation and population dynamics in small mammals (voles)
- phylogeography and reconstruction of historical colonization (Mustela, Clethrionomys, Microtus)
- analysis of reproductive success by using DNA markers (paternity analyses in fish, birds and mammals)
- conservation genetics of endangered vertebrate species (*Lutra*, *Rupicapra*); development of non-invasive techniques of DNA sampling
- mechanisms and evolution of thermal physiology traits in ectotherms (*Triturus*)
- functional approaches in studying morphological adaptations (*Zootoca*, *Triturus*)

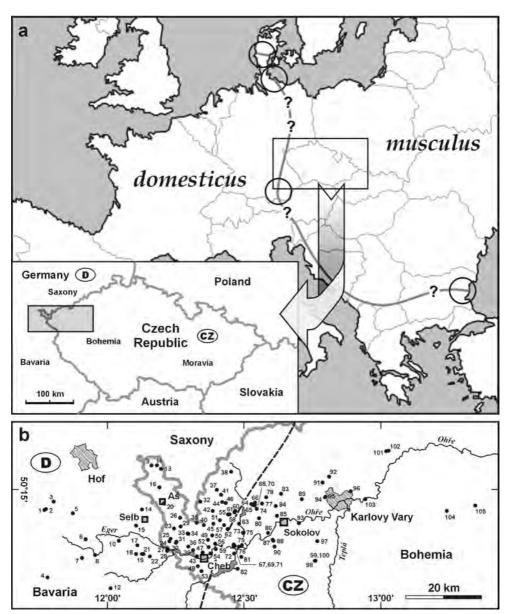
The results of these investigations are used in preparing recommendations for nature conservation, rodent pest control, lecturing at universities in Brno, České Budějovice, Prague, and Olomouc.

Selected research results

Behavioural and genetic study of speciation in a hybrid zone in the house mouse, Mus musculus

Two house mouse subspecies, *Mus m. musculus* and *M. m. domesticus*, form a long and narrow hybrid zone (HZ) running in Europe from Denmark to the Black Sea. Despite long-term interest in the study of this contact zone we have still a limited information about proximate mechanisms maintaining the HZ and thereby keeping the parental taxa in parapatry. To solve this question, we conducted a study of another part of the mouse HZ within the last 10 years. Based on maximum-likelihood analysis of more than 1500 mice from 105 localities we characterized the Czech-Bavarian transect across the HZ [1]. While most of molecular markers show similar transition in terms of frequencies from one taxon to another we found that one marker located on mitochondrial DNA is shifted from the centre and this shift is random when two transects are compared [2]. To determine factors keeping the two mouse

taxa apart and preventing intermixing of their genomes, we transported some mice to the laboratory and studied fitness components of parental and hybrid individuals. Behavioural studies focusing on assortative mating indicate that salivary signals (androgen-binding protein) most probably participate on subspecies specific recognition but in themselves are not efficient



(A) The course of the *musculus/domesticus* hybrid zone in Europe. Circles indicate previously studied transects in Denmark, Germany and Bulgaria. In the insert, the position of the Czech study area is indicated. (B) Location of 105 sampling sites. The thick dashed line is an approximate zone center defined as a 0.5-isocline derived from the bicubic spline smoothing of allele frequencies at each site.

enough to noticeably impede gene flow [3]. Hybrid male sterility is among presumed factors which can prevent gene flow between diverging subpopulations and in a pivot study we showed that genes causing spermatogenetic breakdown are polymorphic and widespread in wild M. m. musculus [4].

- MACHOLÁN M., MUNCLINGER P., ŠUGERKOVÁ M., DUFKOVÁ P., BÍMOVÁ B., BOŽÍKOVÁ E., ZIMA J., PIÁLEK, J., in press: Genetic analysis of autosomal and X-linked markers across a mouse hybrid zone. Evolution. doi: 10.1111/j.1558-5646.2007.00065.x
- BOŽÍKOVÁ E., MUNCLINGER P., TEETER C., TUCKER P.C., MACHOLÁN M., PIÁLEK J., 2005.
 Mitochondrial DNA in the hybrid zone between Mus musculus musculus and Mus musculus domesticus: a comparison of two transects. Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 363-378.
- 3. BÍMOVÁ B., KARN R.C., PIÁLEK J., 2005. The role of salivary androgen-binding protein in reproductive isolation between two subspecies of house mouse: *Mus musculus musculus and Mus musculus domesticus*. Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 349-361.
- 4. VYSKOČILOVÁ M., TRACHTULEC Z., FOREJT J., PIÁLEK J., 2005: Does geography matter in the hybrid sterility in house mice? Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 663-674.

Non-invasive genetic sampling

Genetic studies of elusive or endangered species are often constrained by difficulties in obtaining sufficient number of samples. We optimised the method and increased the success rate of otter (*Lutra lutra*) faeces genotyping using microsatellite and SRY markers. The optimised method was used to estimate population size and structure of free-ranging otters in two different habitats without any contact or disturbance of animals. Complete reliable genotypes were obtained from 60% of samples. Together with tissues from otter carcasses (mostly road-kills), faecal samples were used to study genetic variability, structure and demographic history of otter populations in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Throughout analyses, strict recommendations to avoid contamination and genotyping errors were followed.

In another study, we successfully applied non-invasive approach on PCR-based test for species identification of two cryptic bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. DNA analysis of droppings obtained during trapping or other handling of individuals can substitute the punching of wing-membranes. The results can be potentially obtained even without contact with animals, e.g., using fresh droppings from day roosts.

Another valuable source of samples for molecular genetic studies is museum collections. We have been able to perform a comprehensive phylogeographic research of a stoat (*Mustela erminea*) using mitochondrial DNA sequences from DNA isolated from museum skin collections. We took particular care to ensure authenticity of sequences from the museum samples using methods derived from laboratory protocols for handling ancient DNA.

- HÁJKOVÁ P., PERTOLDI C., ZEMANOVÁ B., ROCHE K., HÁJEK B., BRYJA J., ZIMA J., 2007: Genetic structure and evidence for recent population decline in Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) populations in the Czech and Slovak Republics: implications for conservation. Journal of Zoology 272: 1-9.
- HÁJKOVÁ P., ZEMANOVÁ B., BRYJA J., HÁJEK B., ROCHE K., TKADLEC E., ZIMA J., 2006: Factors affecting success of PCR amplification of microsatellite loci from otter faeces. Molecular Ecology Notes 6: 559–562.
- KANUCH P., HAJKOVA P., REHAK Z., BRYJA J., in press: A rapid PCR-based test for species identification of two cryptic bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* and its application on museum and dropping samples. Acta Chiropterologica.
- MARTÍNKOVÁ N., SEARLE J.B., 2006: Amplification success rate of DNA from museum skin collections: a case study of stoats from 18 museums. Molecular Ecology Notes 6: 1014-1017.

Applications of research results

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic

In May of 1999 the UN Development Programme and the Global Environmental Facility announced a capacity development initiative that was intended to support effective implementation of international agreements adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, concerned with improving the state of the environment on the Earth. On the basis of this Initiative, a National Capacity Self-Assessment project was commenced to perform thorough analysis of conditions in implementing the three international agreements, adopted at the UN Global Conference on the Environment and Development, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The analysis is intended to lead to identification of capacity constraints for meeting the obligations of states following from these agreements and to the preparation of an action plan to improve the situation. Thus, this assessment is intended to evaluate the state of preparation of the Czech Republic for implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. An evaluation is made of the level of strategic planning and proposal of individual steps and prospects, and problems are sought that can be identified as being critical from the standpoint of achieving the intermediate and final targets. In order to provide for the intentions formulated in the Convention, it is above all necessary to create and develop suitable capacities at the individual, institutional and systemic levels. This approach is fundamentally promoted in the assessment.

KIRSCHNER J., RÁB P., ROUDNÁ M., STAŇKOVÁ J., VILÍMOVÁ J., ZIMA J. (ed.), 2006: Biological diversity. Identification of priorities and capacity development for performance of obligations of the Czech Republic following from the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic / UNDP-GEF, Praha, 228 pp.



Threatened mammal species, Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*, can be studied using non-invasive genetic methods (Photo by J. Roleček).

The first gorilla born in the Czech Republic is a girl

The first offspring of the western lowland gorilla in the Czech Republic was born at the Prague ZOO in December 2004. This birth received great publicity and has been popularized in various TV and radio-broadcasting programmes. However, the gender of the young remained enigmatic. Two independent laboratories performed genetic studies aimed to sex identification of the individual but their results appeared contradictory.

The Institute was then asked by the authorities of the Prague ZOO to make additional investigations. The suitability of the genetic sex identification was tested by using blood samples of adult gorillas of known sex. Duplex PCR was conducted to amplify parts of the *Sry* gene (occurring only in males), whereas the *Zfy-Zfx* gene (amplified in both sexes) was used as a positive control of a PCR reaction. Then we used fresh samples of faeces for DNA extraction and amplification in the young and its father. The results showed unequivocally that the young named Moja is a female.



Moja, young female western lowland gorilla at the Prague ZOO. (Photo by T. Mrhálková)

International cooperation

Historical and contemporary selection on major histocompatibility complex genes in cyclic rodents

Host-pathogen interactions are of particular interest in the understanding of the interplay between population dynamics and natural selection. The genes of major histocompatibility complex (MHC) of demographically fluctuating species are very suitable markers for this purpose because they are involved in the initiation of the immune response against pathogens

and they exhibit high levels of genetic variation that are proposed to be adaptive in natural vertebrate populations. We optimised single strand conformation polymorphism analysis method using capillary electrophoresis to study polymorphism of DNA sequences in large scale population studies [1] and applied this method to analyse the variation of two MHC Class II genes (DQA1, DRB) during the demographic cycle of the water vole Arvicola terrestris. Positive historical selection was found to act very intensively on antigen-binding sites of MHC molecules in arvicolid rodents as documented by extensive trans-species polymorphism within the subfamily. For the first time within rodents, we documented the duplication of the DQA gene in three vole species with both copies being transcriptionally active [2]. We compared neutral genetic structure of seven populations (estimated from 14 microsatellites) with that estimated from MHC genes and we evidenced more intense selection on the gene DQA1 than on DRB or neutral markers and this pattern emphasized with increasing population abundance. In the year of low abundance, when populations were geographically isolated, overall differentiation patterns of both MHC genes were more pronounced than at neutral markers suggesting the action of local selection in fragmented populations. With increasing effective migration between sites the differences between MHC and neutral markers progressively vanished and in the high-abundance year, overall differentiation for DQA1 gene became even significantly lower than those of neutral markers, suggesting more homogenisation for that gene than what could be observed by chance for a neutral gene evolving under drift and migration only. Spatial and temporal fluctuations in parasite pressure are proposed as the most plausible mechanism inducing observed changes in contemporary selection pattern during demographic cycle [3].

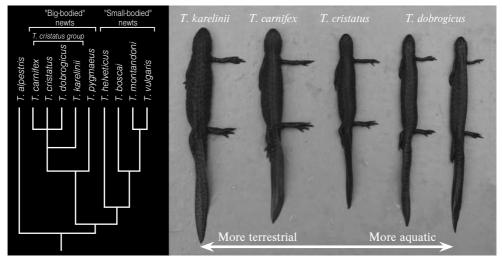
- BRYJA J., GALAN M., CHARBONNEL N., COSSON J.-F., 2005: Analysis of major histocompatibility complex class II gene in water voles using capillary electrophoresis-single stranded conformation polymorphism. Molecular Ecology Notes 5: 173-176.
- BRYJA J., GALAN M., CHARBONNEL N., COSSON J.-F., 2006: Duplication, balancing selection and transspecies evolution explain the high levels of polymorphism of the DQA MHC class II gene in voles (Arvicolinae). Immunogenetics 58: 191-202.
- BRYJA J., CHARBONNEL N., BERTHIER K., GALAN M., COSSON J.-F., submitted: Density-related changes
 in selection pattern on major histocompatibility complex genes in fluctuating populations of voles. Molecular
 Ecology.

Evolution of form and function in newts

Conflicts between structural requirements for carrying out different ecologically relevant functions may result in a compromise phenotype that maximizes neither function. Identifying and evaluating functional trade-offs may therefore aid in understanding the evolution of organismal performance. We examined the possibility of an evolutionary trade-off between aquatic and terrestrial locomotion in females of European species of the newt genus *Triturus*. Biomechanical models suggest a conflict between the requirements for aquatic and terrestrial locomotion. For instance, having an elongate, slender body, a large tail and reduced limbs should benefit undulatory swimming, but at the cost of reduced running capacity. To test the prediction of an evolutionary trade-off between swimming and running capacity, we investigated relationships between size-corrected morphology and maximum locomotor performance in females of ten species of newts. Phylogenetic comparative analyses revealed that an evolutionary trend of body elongation (increasing axilla-groin distance) is associated with a reduction in head width and forelimb length. Body elongation resulted in reduced maximum running speed, but, surprisingly, also led to a reduction in swimming speed. The

evolution of longer tails was associated with an increase in maximal swimming speed. We found no evidence for an evolutionary trade-off between aquatic and terrestrial locomotor performance, probably because of the unexpected negative effect of body elongation on swimming speed. We conclude that the idea of a design conflict between aquatic and terrestrial locomotion, mediated through antagonistic effects of body elongation, does not apply to our model system.

GVOŽDÍK L., VAN DAMME R., 2006: Triturus newts defy the running-swimming dilemma. Evolution 60: 2110-2121.



Species of the *Triturus cristatus* group showing the most prominent trend in body elongation and limb reduction within the (*Triturus*) clade.

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Research Priorities

The research of fishes is performed at various levels of spatial and biological organization (individual, population, and community), in relation to distribution, biology, ecology, and diversity. The study reflects the heterogeneity of aquatic environment, both in term of habitats and microhabitats, and the biodiversity between and within species. Fishes are considered to be complex bioindicators of degradation as well as regeneration of aquatic habitats. Accordingly, a number of activities are aimed at restoring and revitalisation of aquatic ecosystems.

Main research topics:

- diversity of fish communities and population parameters of key species in various types of aquatic habitats
- genetic diversity of fish populations
- rehabilitation of aquatic habitats and ecosystems for the restoration and conservation of fish biodiversity
- biology and conservation management of threatened species
- alien invasive species and their impact on native fish biodiversity

Selected research results

Growth characteristics of the barbel, Barbus barbus, in the middle course of the Jihlava River

Growth in length and weight, based on a combination of scale annulus interpretation and back-calculation using the Fraser-Lee model, was studied in male and female barbel, *Barbus barbus*, from a section of the Jihlava River sampled in 1999–2001. Results were compared with growth data obtained with similar methods in 1976, prior to construction and functioning of a hydropower scheme complex (Dukovany-Dalešice), and during the period of the scheme's partial operation (1980–1984). Recent growth rate, under seemingly fully-established environmental conditions and complete adaptation of the barbel population, showed the highest values, especially in males. A distinct sexual dimorphism in growth rate was also confirmed, with females growing faster than males, though to a lower extent than recorded both during previous periods and from several other localities. Further, upon comparison of back-calculated lengths for previous years of recently tagged-and-recaptured fish (1999–2001), with observed lengths directly measured at corresponding ages, no significant differences were overall found between the results obtained by either method in most age groups. Finally, the linear Fraser-Lee model proved a sufficiently accurate and practical method for back-calculating lengths for previous years of life also in barbel.

PROKEŠ M., ŠOVČÍK P., PEŇÁZ M., BARUŠ V., SPURNÝ P., VILIZZI L., 2006: Growth of barbel, *Barbus barbus*, in the River Jihlava following major habitat alteration and estimated by two methods. Folia Zoologica 55: 86-96.

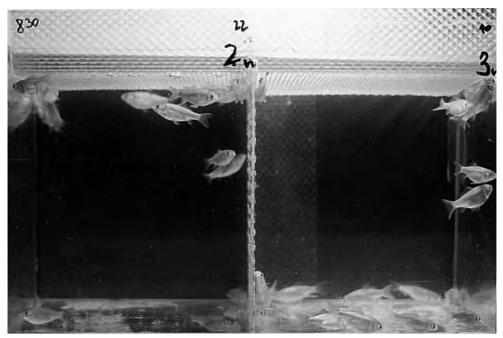


Ichtyological investigation on the Jihlava River. Left to right: J. I. Namin, V. Baruš, L. Vetešník, M. Prokeš. (Photo by M. Peňáz)

Physiological and behavioural differences between Carassius auratus lineages differing in ploidy levels and parental origin

In recent years, original uniform (unisexual-triploid) populations of silver crucian carp in central Europe transform dramatically. Previous state of sporadic diploid individuals' occurence (both males and females) has been gradually substituted by current state, where on some localities these diploids begin to dominate. Main goal of our experiments is to understand factors which affect this dynamics of diploid-polyploid complexes.

The reactions of the individuals *Carassius auratus* on temperature and low-oxygen stress were observed. The results show differences in dependence not only on the ploidy levels but also on their ancestry. It may be an important selective factor in specific natural conditions which affected occurence this groups in specific biotope. Haematological analysis was performed on 27 adult specimens of *Carassius auratus* irrespective of sex in 2003 and on 32 juveniles of distinguished sex in 2004. In this study we found that the ploidy level affected significantly (p < 0.01) the values of the erythrocyte count, mean corpuscular volume and mean corpuscular haemoglobin. Although we did not prove any significant effect of sex in juvenile diploids of *C. auratus* on the values of erythrocyte profile, the erythrocyte count, haematocrit value and haemoglobin content value were higher for males than for females. The erythrocyte count decreased significantly (p < 0.01) with increasing ploidy level. The index of haemoglobin content followed the same trend of a decreasing mean value with increasing ploidy level. Mean corpuscular volume and mean corpuscular haemoglobin increased with the increasing ploidy level (p < 0.01). Haematocrit value and mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration did not significantly differ from the point of view of the ploidy level.



Different depth preferences for swimming of diploid (left) and triploid (right) *Carassius auratus* in an aquarium. (Photo by K. Halačka)



Blood taking from Carassius auratus K. Halačka (left), L. Vetešník (right). Photo by S. Lusk.

HALAČKA K., VETEŠNÍK L., 2005: Vliv teplotního a kyslíkového stresu na karasa stříbřitého [Influence of temperature and oxygen stress on silver crucian carp (*Carassius auratus L.*)]. In: Spurný E. (ed.), 8. Česká ichtyologická konference. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno; 270–274.

VETEŠNÍK L., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., LUSK S., 2006: Erythrocyte profile of diploid and triploid silver crucian carp (*Carassius auratus*). Acta Veterinaria Brno 75: 203–207.

The nematode parasites of vertebrates: a potential sentinel species of heavy metal accumulation

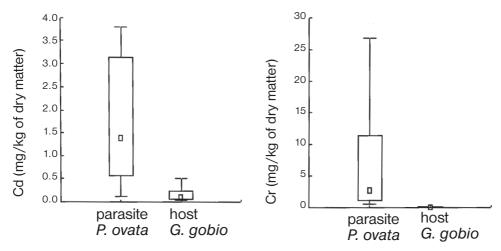
To assess the bioindicator value of parasites, the concentrations of six heavy metals (Cr, Cu, Pb, Cd, Ni and Zn) were analyzed by atomic absorption spectrometry in pregnant females of the nematode *Philometra ovata*, body cavity parasites of gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) and muscle samples of infected and uninfected hosts. The concentration of heavy metals was significantly higher in specimen of *P. ovata* compared to the host muscle tissue.

The parasite-to-muscle ratio of heavy metals varied from 3.2 to 121.7, in increasing concentrations for Cr, Cd, Cu, Pb, Ni and Zn. The presence of parasites did not influence the heavy metal content of the hosts, and no significant differences were found between muscle tissues of parasitized and non-parasitized fishes. The bioconcentration factor (BFs = $C_{parasite} / C_{sediment}$) varied between 0.4 and 25.8 and BFw ($C_{parasite} / C_{water}$) between 2133 and 25354. In conclusion the *P. ovata* – gudgeon parasite host system is an effective and practical bioindicator, even a sentinel system, of heavy metals load in aquatic ecosystems. Our results demonstrate that this parasite accumulates heavy metals at highes rates than the other nematode species (*Anguillicola crassus*, *Contracaecum rudolphii*, *Protospirura muricola*).

BARUŠ V., JARKOVSKÝ J., PROKEŠ M., 2007: *Philometra ovata* (Nematoda: Philometroidea): a potential sentinel species of heavy metal accumulation. Parasitology Research 100: 929-933.

BARUŠ V., TENORA F., ŠUMBERA R., 2003: Relative concentrations of four heavy metals in the parasites *Protospirura muricola* (Nematoda) and *Inermicapsifer arvicanthidis* (Cestoda) in their definitive host silvery mole-rat (*Heliophobius argenteocinereus*: Rodentia). Helminthologia 40: 227–232.

PALÍKOVÁ M., BARUŠ V., 2003: Mercury content in *Anguillicola crassus* (Nematoda) and its host *Anguilla anguilla*. Acta Veterinaria Brno 72: 289-294.



The concentration of heavy metals in a specimen of P. ovata and the host Gobio gobio muscle tissue.

Vimba vimba: a locally vanished and endangered species

In the past, *Vimba vimba* was among the key components of the fish assemblages inhabiting the middle and lower reaches of streams in the Czech Republic. Dam building, water pollution, fragmentation of the longitudinal continuum of most rivers in the course of the 20th century has resulted in the fact that at present the species is classified as Vulnerable. The degree of its threatening differs in various drainage areas. The species is comparatively abundant in some parts of the Labe and Vltava drainage area (the Berounka River, the lower reaches of the Labe River, the confluence of the Malše and Vltava rivers). Recently, *V. vimba* has vanished from the drainage area of the Odra River. In the Morava drainage area, it is rather numerous in the middle and lower reaches of the Bečva River. Residual populations exist in the Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir and in the lower reaches of the Jihlava River.

Investigations on the remnant *Vimba* population in the Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir, carried out in 1934, have shown that it can survive for 70 years at a low level of its genetic diversity. The numbers of the adult component of this population does not exceed one thousand individuals. In view of the low mean age of the population, with just two age groups being responsible for reproduction, it has been recommended to foster the population with material obtained by hand-stripping and rearing individuals from that population.

Besides, another important measure to improve the status of *Vimba vimba* populations could inhere in successively renewing the migration permeability of streams in their longitudinal profile. Like *Chondrostoma nasus, Vimba vimba* is among the fish species that perform long-range spawning migrations.

LUSK S., HANEL L., LUSKOVÁ V., LOJKÁSEK B., HARTVICH P., 2006: Červený seznam mihulí a ryb České republiky - Verze 2005 [The Red List of lampreys and fishes in the Czech Republic - Version 2005]. Biodiverzita ichtyofauny ČR (VI): 7-16.

LUSK S., LUSKOVÁ V., HALAČKA K., ŠLECHTOVÁ V., ŠLECHTA V., 2005: Characteristics of the remnant *Vimba vimba* population in the upper part of the Dyje River. Folia Zoologica 54: 389-404.



The Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir. (Photo by K.Halačka)

Characteristics of populations of the Zingel zingel and Zingel streber in the Czech Republic

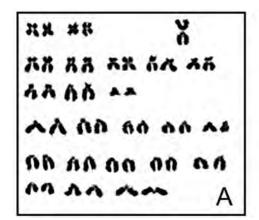
Zingel zingel and Zingel streber are typical Danubian species occurring rarely in the Morava River drainage area within the Czech Republic. Due to weir constructions and especially due to increase of water pollution during the first half of the last century, they disappeared from our waters, and both species were assessed as critically endangered and protected by the national and European legislations. Only after improvements of the water quality in the Morava and Dyje Rivers, the new occurrence of Z. zingel was ascertained as early as in 1992, and that of Z. streber in 2003 in the area of the confluence of both rivers. A very numerous occurrence of young-of-the-year Z. streber specimens evidenced a successful reproduction.

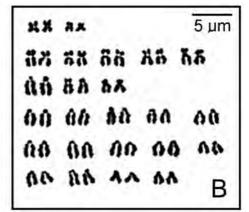
The restoration of both species was enabled by constant improvements of the water quality and by possibilities of free migrations from the Danube through the Slovakian-Austrian part of the Morava River. The stable occurrence of both species is constrained at present to short sections (Morava r.km 70-74.1 and Dyje 0.0-26.7).

The karyotype of *Z. zingel* was analyzed. The diploid chromosome number was 2n=48 for the female, and only 2n=47 for the male, but there was also present a single large unpaired metacentric chromosome. This indicated the presence of the X1X1X2X2/X1X2Y multiple sex chromosome system produced by the fusion of two sub- or acrocentrics chromosomes, one of them being the sex chromosome Y.



Zingel streber from the Morava River. (Photo by K. Halačka)





The karyotype of Zingel zingel, A - male, B - female

HALAČKA K., VETEŠNÍK L., LUSK S., MENDEL J., PAPOUŠEK I., in press: The X1X1X2X2/X1X2Y multiple sex chromosome system in the *Zingel zingel* (Pisces: Perciformes) from the Morava River (Czech Republic). Caryologia.

LUSK S., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., VETEŠNÍK L., 2004: Re-occurrence of *Zingel streber* (Teleostei: Pisces) in the Czech Republic. Folia Zoologica 53: 417–422.

VETEŠNÍK L., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., LUSK S., 2004: Growth of Zingel streber and Zingel zingel and their distribution in the Czech Republic. VII. Česká ichtyologická konference, Vodňany: 74–77.

Applications of Research Results

Removing of migratory barriers fragmenting large rivers

A weir in Břeclav, river km 27, constitutes the first migratory barrier for water fauna on the lower Dyje River, which has free migratory route to the Danube River through 70 km long

Slovakian-Austrian stretch of the Morava River. At the end of 2005, a new fishpass was put into service within the frame of "Action plan of floodpass building on selected rivers of the Czech Republic". During 2006, we conducted a monitoring of its function performance. It was stated that both the entrance and interior bouldered migratory parts are fully functional for whole species and age spectrum of fish community. From the aspect of fish migration it is necessary to optimize the upper part including the exit part of the fishpass. Feasible modifications (such as enlargement of entry slots and adding of 2–3 rows of boulders in upper parts) should allow full migratory passability for the whole species range of the lower Dyje River ichthyofauna.

Floodgate Střekov constitutes the first migratory barrier on the Elbe River (river km 321) on the territory of the Czech Republic. In 2001, the new lowland pool fishpass was built there in connection with the project "Salmon 2000", allowing periodical monitoring of migrating fishes.

Significant numbers of juvenile (age 0+) and subadult (age 1+ and 2+) fish were observed migrating through a lowland pool fishpass from August to October in 2003 and 2004. Records of weekly catches totalled 2 148 (2003) and 6 469 (2004), mainly bleak, barbel, roach and dace. Fish migrated in the upstream direction probably to search the feeding grounds and refuges and their numbers corresponded to spring spawning migrations in the same fishpass and the year.

LUSK S., 2006: Zpráva o sledování a vyhodnocení funkčnosti rybího přechodu na jezu Břeclav v ř.km 26,7 řeky Dyje v průběhu roku 2006 [Report on monitoring and functionality of the fish pass on the weir Břeclav (river km 26.7 of the Dyje River) during 2006]. MS, Povodí Moravy SP, Brno, 22 pp.

PRCHALOVÁ M., VETEŠNÍK L., SLAVÍK O., 2006: Migrations of juvenile and subadult fish through a fishway during the late summer and fall. Folia Zoologica 55: 162-166.



Building of fish pass on the Dyje River in Břeclav. (Photo by K. Halačka)



The new lowland pool fishpass at Střekov. (Photo by K. Halačka)

Artificial wetlands - significant support for stable fish biodiversity in a river alluvium

The natural dynamics of water discharges and the ensuing fluvial stream activity resulted in a considerable diversification of aquatic environments in fluvial ecosystems. Besides the active streams in flooding area, there originated and developed a diversified system of aquatic habitats. This hydrological system offered conditions for fish assemblages showing a high species richness. However, the modifications of most streams as well as other human activities resulted in a limitation or complete elimination of any fluvial activity of the streams. Therefore, new habitats are no longer created by the natural activity of water discharges and fluvial activity. On the contrary, the habitats created by the streams in the past are now gradually vanishing. Now there are two alternatives as regards the future of these habitats: either the existing natural habitats can be maintained and renewed by human efforts, or new habitats can be provided in the form of artificial wetlands (earth pits, channels, artificial pools and lakes). Alluvial habitats are irreplaceable environments for several indigenous fish species protected by native as well as European legislation: Rhodeus amarus, Misgurnus fossilis, Cobitis elongatoides incl. hybrid populations, Umbra krameri and, of other species, Carassius carassius, Tinca tinca and Leucaspius delineatus. Also, artificial wetlands can provide more stable environments for the survival of fishes during critical periods. Artificial habitats, connected with the main stream or flooded during floods are populated by species inhabiting the major stream. The artificial aquatic habitats lying outside the active alluvium can be provided with fish assemblages aimed at conservation goals. The highly positive contribution of artificial habitats in stabilizing populations of the species mentioned above has been demonstrated in concrete objects in the floodplains of the rivers Morava, Dyje, Lužnice and, in eastern Slovakia, the drainage areas of the Bodrog, Latorica, Tisza and Ondava rivers.

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Two time stages of the artificial wetland in the Chomoutov Nature Reserve. (Photo by S. Lusk)

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Field laboratory in the town of Vidin, Bulgaria. Left to right: M. Vassilev, T. Trichkova, M. Ondračková, M. Polačik, K. Francová, M. Dušková. (Photo by J. Huml)

Research Priorities

We use fish to investigate questions in ecology and evolution as well as applied issues in fisheries management, conservation of aquatic habitats and floodplain restoration. Our field and experimental studies are conducted in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The current topics investigated in our department are:

- behavioural and evolutionary ecology of bitterling fish
- adaptation and coevolution of bitterling and their mussel hosts
- ecology, distribution and parasites of invasive Neogobius fishes
- 0+ juvenile fish community structure in lowland rivers and their flood plains
- optimisation of methods for 0+ juvenile fish sampling
- impacts of metazoan parasites on 0+ juvenile fish development
- community ecology of fishes in the Gambia River floodplain, Senegal, West Africa
- reproductive isolating mechanisms in the East African annual fishes *Nothobranchius* spp.

Selected Research Results

The coevolutionary relationship between bitterling fishes and freshwater mussels

Bitterlings (subfamily Acheilognathinae) are freshwater cyprinid fishes that have evolved an unusual spawning symbiosis with freshwater mussels from the family Unionidae. Female bitterling develop long ovipositors that they use to place their eggs deep inside the gill cavity of a mussel and males fertilise the eggs by releasing sperm into the inhalant siphon of the mussel. Bitterling embryos develop inside the mussel gill cavity for weeks and constrain mussel physiology. In turn, unionid mussels have parasitic larvae called glochidia. They are released into the water column, attach to fish gills or fins and obtain nourishment from the fish host. We found that relationship between bitterling and mussel, popularly considered mutualistic on the premise that bitterling use mussels as spawning sites while the mussel benefits by using bitterling to disperse their glochidia, is more complex.

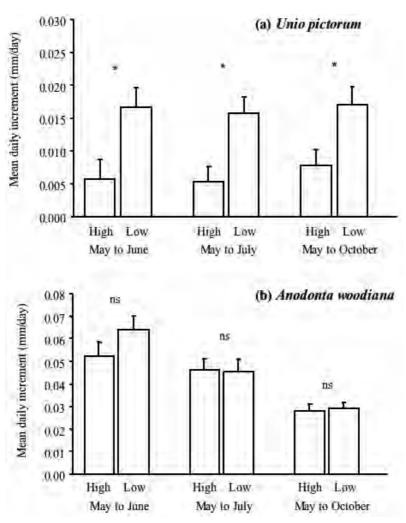
We investigated the costs and benefits from the symbiosis to both fish and mussels and found that in Europe, bitterling are parasites of mussels. European bitterling do not host glochidia, but adult European mussels suffer from a reduction in growth and fecundity if they carry bitterling embryos. In a further study, we found that this may be due to a lag in the coevolutionary relationship – bitterling presence in Europe is recent and mussels may have not had enough time to evolve sufficient adaptations. Indeed, in Asia, where bitterling origin is ancient, mussels are able to eject bitterling eggs and embryos prematurely, similarly to the eviction of cuckoo eggs by their bird foster parents. In a large scale comparative study in China, we discovered that the bitterling species vary in the level of their specificity to particular hosts and revealed a complex network of relationships between bitterling and mussel traits.

LIU H., ZHU Y., SMITH C., REICHARD M., 2006: Evidence of host specificity and congruence between phylogenies of bitterlings and freshwater mussels. Zoological Studies 45: 428-434.

REICHARD M., LIU H., SMITH C., 2007: The coevolutionary relationship between bitterling fishes and freshwater mussels: insights from interspecific comparisons. Evolutionary Ecology Research 9: 239–259.

REICHARD M., ONDRAČKOVÁ M., PRZYBYLSKI M., LIU H., SMITH C., 2006: The costs and benefits in an unusual symbiosis: experimental evidence that bitterling fish (*Rhodeus sericeus*) are parasites of unionid mussels in Europe. Journal of Evolutionary Biology 19: 788-796.

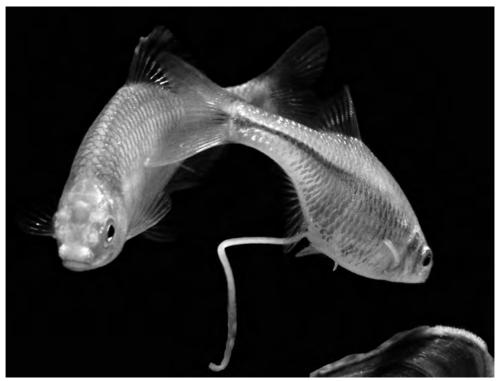
REICHARD M., PRZYBYLSKI M., KANIEWSKA P., LIU H., SMITH C., 2007: A possible evolutionary lag in the relationship between freshwater mussels and European bitterling. Journal of Fish Biology 70: 709-725.



Mean (+1 SE) daily shell growth of (a) *Unio pictorum* and (b) *Anodonta woodiana* mussels at high and low embryo density treatments calculated for the periods May to June (28 days), May to July (70 days), and May to October (131 days) 2004.

Sexual selection in the bitterling fish: the role of female choice and male mating tactics

Natural selection theory is based on the principle of unequal individual reproductive success within a species. This is caused by differential survival among individuals (ecological adaptations) and different number of offspring produced by individuals (sexual selection). Sexual selection explains the evolution of adaptations to maximise the individual reproductive potential, particularly adaptations to male-male interference competition for females and female choice. Using a series of experiments with a small cyprinid fish, the European bitterling, *Rhodeus sericeus*, we separated the two components of sexual selection and investigated their relative importance by estimating male reproductive success through paternity assignments. For individual males, the success in male-male competition for territories was significantly



A pair of European bitterlins before spawning. (Photo by C. Smith)

more important than female preference of a given male. Dominant males monopolised access to territories and sired considerably more offspring than males preferred by females. Therefore, the hierarchical rank of males reduced opportunities for female choice and females, despite being choosy, had limited control over the paternity of their offspring. In another set of experiments, we found that female bitterling may use sophisticated behaviour to prolong the spawning act and solicit sneaking fertilisations from subordinate males. This behaviour enables preferred, but subordinate, males to sire some offspring. Our data suggest new prospect in explaining the evolution of alternative male reproductive tactics, so far considered as a "parasitic" strategy undermining female choice.

Our results show that alternative male tactics may, contrary to the current view, augment rather than decrease the role of female choice. Given the important consequences of this finding on effective population size, our results have also general implications in the management of natural populations.

REICHARD M., BRYJA J., ONDRAČKOVÁ M., DÁVIDOVÁ M., KANIEWSKA P., SMITH C., 2005: Sexual selection for male dominance reduces opportunities for female mate choice in the European bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*). Molecular Ecology 14: 1533–1542.

SMITH C., REICHARD M., 2005: Females solicit sneakers to improve fertilisation success in the bitterling fish (*Rhodeus sericeus*). Proceedings of the Royal Society London, Series B 272: 1683-1688.

SMITH C., REICHARD M., DOUGLAS A., JURAJDA P., 2006: Population consequences of behaviour in the European bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*, Cyprinidae). Ecology of Freshwater Fishes 15: 137-145

Sampling methodology and monitoring of 0+ juvenile fish in channelized lowland rivers

Fish reproduction and use of nursery habitats by 0+ fish have been long-term monitored (1991-2006) in lowland channelized and regulated river Morava (r km 69.4-92.8). At twenty localities within the river stretch, 0+ juvenile fish assemblages are sampled in late summer by point abundance sampling (PAS) electrofishing.

PAS is widely used sampling strategy based on collecting numerous small (point) samples of the same size. This principle is considered to be more statistically robust than sampling low number of large samples. To evaluate its suitability for monitoring 0+ juvenile fish assemblages, we compared PAS with a strategy that surveys the given area in its whole length: a continuous sampling. Both strategies provided similar estimates of 0+ juvenile fish assemblages, in terms of species richness, species composition, relative proportion of the most abundant species and size structure. PAS proved to be the less time-demanding strategy (consuming approximately 60% of time compared to CS) allowing either surveying the fixed area quicker than CS or surveying longer area within fixed time interval. We therefore evaluated PAS as an appropriate strategy for sampling 0+ juvenile fish in lowland channelized rivers.

Though the lower part of the Morava River was modified for navigation, it is currently not used for this purpose. Therefore a variable water discharge is allowed to occur, which creates more habitat variability. The riprap bank is a uniform bank type occurring along the shoreline. Gently sloped sand-gravel beaches are formed along the inner bands of the river during low summer discharges. During periods of elevated discharge, the water level reaches the bank-side vegetation above the boulder bank. All these habitat types are, according to our results, suitable for, and to a large extent utilized by, the 0+ juvenile fish assemblage.

Mainly bitterling, chub, bleak, and gudgeon have adapted to the conditions following river modification and form abundant and stable populations. These species reproduce successfully and form a major part of the 0+ fish community. Specialist species (phytophils and most of lithophils) are disadvantaged, in term of their reproductive success.

JANÁČ M., JURAJDA P., in press: A comparison of point abundance and continuous sampling by electrofishing for age 0 fish in a channelized lowland river. North American Journal of Fisheries Management.

VALOVÁ Z., JURAJDA P., JANÁČ M., 2006: Spatial distribution of 0+ juvenile fish in differently modified lowland rivers. Folia Zoologica 55: 293-308.

Applications of Research Results

Water Framework Directive implementation

Since 1999, we have provided monitoring of young-of-the-year fishes in selected profiles of the river network that were included in the water quality assessment program in the Czech Republic (coordinated by Water Research Institute TGM Praha). In 2005, National Methodology for fish monitoring program within WFD implementation, based on international sources (FAME, CEN), has been completed and tested. During 2006, this methodology has been used in monitoring of 174 sites. The monitoring of young-of-the-year fish has been proven as a suitable methodology for WFD evaluation in the intensively stocked rivers in the Czech Republic.

JURAJDA P., SLAVÍK O., ADÁMEK Z., 2006: Sampling of young-of-the-year fishes in rivers. National Methodology of the Ministry of Environment CR. (in Czech) http://www.ochranavod.cz/dokumenty/RYB_tekouci%20vody.pdf

International Cooperation

Distribution, ecology and parasite fauna of zebrafish (Danio rerio) in Bangladesh

Zebrafish, *Danio rerio*, is a well established laboratory species in biomedical research. It has proven to be hugely influential in studies on gene expression of physiological, morphological and behavioural traits. There are surprisingly few data available on zebrafish natural behaviour and ecology. We have participated in an expedition that collected data on geographical distribution, habitat preferences, population structure and parasite load of wild zebrafish in Bangladesh. We found that zebrafish inhabits standing water bodies within the floodplain rather than river environment and that it is the most abundant in shallow lakes, ponds and ditches with rich vegetation at the margins. It is commonly abundant in water bodies with a connection to rice cultivation. We have identified parasite fauna of zebrafish based on a dissection of 120 individual zebrafish and eight additional fish species co-occurring with zebrafish. Our results suggest that there are large differences in parasite abundance and species richness among zebrafish populations from across Bangladesh which may be used in subsequent studies linking genetic background and susceptibility to parasitic diseases.

This project is based on the international cooperation with University of Leicester (United Kingdom), University of Khulna and University of Mymensingh (Bangladesh).

ONDRAČKOVÁ M., SPENCE R., SMITH C., 2006. Occurrence of metazoan parasites of zebrafish *Danio rerio* (Cyprinidae) in Bangladesh. In: Bryja J., Zukal J. (eds), Zoologické dny Brno 2006. Ústav biologie obratlovců AV ČR, Brno; 135.

SPENCE R., RUNA K.F., REICHARD M., HUQ K.A., WAHAB M.A., AHMED Z.F., SMITH C., 2006: The distribution and habitat preferences of the zebrafish in Bangladesh. Journal of Fish Biology. 69: 1435-1448.





Field research in Bangladesh. (Photos by M. Reichard and C. Pateman Jones, respectively)

Distribution, ecology and parasites of *Neogobius* fishes in their native and non-native area of distribution

Four Ponto-Caspian gobies of the genus *Neogobius* are regarded as invasive species because of their ability to rapidly establish abundant populations in the non-native areas, as was



Sampling in Bulgarian section of the Danube. (Photo by J. Huml)

documented in Europe and North America. In the non-native range, *Neogobius* spp. may affect local ecosystem directly e.g. by changing food web interactions, or indirectly by acting as a vector for non-native parasites. To explain the successful introductions of *Neogobius* spp. in the Danube River basin, we investigated their distribution, ecology and parasites in both native and non-native range (lower and middle Danube, respectively). We found that *N. melanostomus* and *N. kessleri* dominated in the non-native range whereas *N. fluviatilis* dominated in the native range. Our results of fish distribution support the hypothesis of disjunctive spreading since very low population densities of *N. gymnotrachelus* and especially *N. melanostomus* were registered in the Croatian section of Danube, i.e. in the middle between native and non-native abundant populations. *N. gymnotrachelus* was relatively rare in both examined Danube stretches. *N. kessleri* and *N. melanostomus* reached a bigger size in the non-native area and some differences between populations were found also in the diet.

Parasite fauna of native and non-native populations of *N. kessleri* and *N. melanostomus* showed slight differences in both parasite abundance and parasite species richness. Parasite community in riverine fish did not differ among populations especially in *N. kessleri*; on the other hand, in fish from side-arm system, a habitat untypical for this fish species, the parasite species richness was two times higher than in the river. Parasite fauna of *Neogobius* spp. comprises mainly common and abundant parasites in the particular site showing very low host – specificity. Ponto-Caspian gobies seem to be fish hosts very susceptible to various parasite species and their parasite community reflects the fish feeding strategy and habitat preference.

This project is based on the international cooperation with Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria), University of Osijek (Croatia) and University of Vienna (Austria).

- JURAJDA P., ČERNÝ J., POLAČIK M., VALOVÁ Z., JANÁČ M., BLAŽEK R., ONDRAČKOVÁ M., 2005: The recent distribution and abundance of non-native *Neogobius* fishes in the Slovak section of the River Danube. Journal of Applied Ichthyology 21: 319–323.
- JURAJDA P., VASSILEV M., POLAČIK M., TRICHKOVA T., 2006: A first record of *Perccottus glenii* (Perciformes: Odontobutidae) in the Danube River in Bulgaria. Acta Zoologica Bulgarica 58: 279–282.
- ONDRAČKOVÁ M., DÁVIDOVÁ M., PEČÍNKOVÁ M., BLAŽEK R., GELNAR M., VALOVÁ Z., ČERNÝ J., JURAJDA P., 2005: Metazoan parasites of *Neogobius* fishes in the Slovak section of the River Danube: a preliminary study. Journal of Applied Ichthyology 21: 345–349.
- ONDRAČKOVÁ M., TRICHKOVA T., JURAJDA P., 2006: Present and historical occurrence of metazoan parasites in *Neogobius kessleri* (Pisces: Gobiidae) in the Bulgarian Section of the Danube River. Acta Zoologica Bulgarica 58: 401-408.



Racer goby Neogobius gymnotrachelus. (Photo by P. Jurajda)

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Research priorities

Our research focuses on understanding the ecological and evolutionary basis of reproductive strategies. Important goals of this research are to identity the ecological factors that promote parasitic reproductive behaviour, predator avoidance and nest predation. We conduct studies adopting the adaptationist and optimality approach of behavioural ecology to examine fitness costs and benefits of various characters in bird populations. Further we aim at understanding the evolution and signalling function of secondary male ornaments in birds. Using genetic markers we study population differentiation and phylogeography of selected European passerines across migratory divides which are inferred from measurements of stable isotope ratios and ringing recoveries. Our current research also concentrates on patterns of singing activity in passerines and includes studies of parasites associated with birds of the Afrotropical and Neotropical Regions as well.

Selected research results

Extra-pair fertilizations and mechanisms of mate choice

Extra-pair fertilizations (EPF) are frequently documented in songbirds. A costs—benefits approach has frequently been used to understand the evolutionary origin and maintenance of promiscuity in this group. Recent meta-analyses suggest that direct costs to unfaithful females outweigh indirect benefits from infidelity in socially monogamous songbirds, what

indicates that in these taxa, EPF evolved primarily as a self-interest male tactic. We performed a comparative analysis to show that standardized selection gradients acting against female infidelity (direct costs of promiscuity) explain variation in EPF rates at an interspecific level in passerines. This result confirms that costs to females resulting from reduced parental care by cheated males constrain promiscuity in this group. Our data indicate that females exert resistance over EPF when the costs of infidelity are high and, conversely, that the rate of EPF increases when selection on females to defend themselves against EPF attempts by males is weak and costs of infidelity are low. Indirect (genetic) benefits to females should play a central role in choice of extra-pair mate, since female birds do apparently obtain only sperm from these mates. There are two basic models of mate choice in animals, with indicator model proposing an absolute criterion of mate choice such as sexual ornaments, and the other one proposing (dis)similarity between the female and male as the main mechanism. The latter is often called choice of 'genetic compatibility' in recent literature. However, the term 'genetic compatibility' has an existing meaning in speciation and we therefore propose use of the term 'genetic complementarity' over 'genetic compatibility'. This is in agreement with Trivers (1972) who was to our knowledge the first to clearly articulate the phenomenon of mating based on genetic dissimilarity.

ALBRECHT T., KREISINGER J., PIÁLEK J., 2006. The strength of direct selection against female promiscuity is associated with rates of extrapair fertilizations in socially monogamous passerines. American Naturalist 167: 739-744.

PIÁLEK J., ALBRECHT T., 2005. Choosing mates: compatible versus complementary genes. Trends in Ecology & Evolution 20: 63.

Coevolution between European hosts and their brood parasites

Successive adaptations and counteradaptations by avian brood parasites and their hosts provide some of the best examples of direct coevolution in nature. Successfully parasitized hosts often raise only the cuckoo young and have zero reproductive success. This creates conditions for coevolutionary arms race between hosts and parasites. We studied both adaptations of the hosts and counteradaptations of the parasites, respectively.

We tested experimentally responses of the hosts towards multiple cuckoo parasitism and suggest that when the parasitism rate reaches high levels, e.g. at the beginning of the coevolutionary arms race, defense against multiple parasitism may be an important component of host's adaptation to brood parasitism in general. Other major adaptations are those related to the parasitic egg. We evaluated the puncture resistance hypothesis for the occurrence of thick-shelled eggs in common cuckoo by investigating costs of cuckoo egg ejection in four *Acrocephalus* warblers. Last but not least, we tested great reed warbler discrimination against two cuckoo morphs in two areas with different parasitism rates and proportions of the two morphs. Our results suggest that both local parasitism pressure and relative abundance of the two colour morphs of a brood parasite may significantly influence host defences. Finally, we studied laying strategy of cuckoo that is well-synchronized with that of the host. This matching of laying patterns with those of the hosts suggests an adaptive response to ensure optimal hatchability of the cuckoo eggs and to avoid multiple parasitism of the same nest even under heavy pressures of brood parasitism.

ANTONOV, A., STOKKE, B. G., MOKSNES, A., HONZA, M., 2006: Eggshell strength of an obligate brood parasite: a test of the puncture resistance hypothesis. Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology 60: 11-18

HONZA M., MOSKÁT C., 2005: Antiparasite behaviour in response to experimental brood parasitism in the great reed warbler: a comparison of single and multiple parasitism. Annales Zoologici Fennici 42: 627-633.

HONZA M., ŠICHA V., PROCHÁZKA P., LEŽALOVÁ R., 2006: Host nest defense against a color-dimorphic brood parasite: great reed warblers (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) versus common cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus*). Journal of Ornithology 147: 629-637.

MOSKÁT C., BARTA Z., HAUBER M.E., HONZA M., 2006: High synchrony of egg laying in common cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* and their great reed warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* hosts. Ethology, Ecology and Evolution 18: 159–167.

Savi's warbler: A model species for studying the patterns of singing activity

Males of many bird species spend enormous amounts of time singing, which may amount to several hundred thousand songs per season. They sing in order to acquire a mate and to defend a territory and its resources or to minimize the risk of cuckoldry by neighbouring males and to maximize the probability of their own successful extrapair copulations. Diel patterns of singing vary among bird species in aspects such as the timing of peaks through the day or night and throughout the season.

We studied seasonal and diel patterns of singing activity of Savi's warblers *Locustella luscinioides* in two areas of Central Europe 300 km apart, over a period of 18 years. We assess about 4,600 records of individuals singing. Males were found to exhibit similar singing activity in both study sites. They started to sing after arrival at the beginning of April and peaked from the end of April to the beginning of May. Thereafter, their singing activity was lower but more



A male Savi's warbler singing. (Photo by L. Hlásek)

stable for a relatively long period from mid-May to mid-July. At the end of July, males sang only sporadically and singing activity ceased at the beginning of August. At the beginning and towards the end of the song-period males sang sporadically whereas in the period of the highest singing activity they sang over the entire 24-h period. During the whole song-period, there was a significant difference in singing activity between daylight and the dark (67.2 and 32.8%, respectively). However, the period of daylight was longer. Average singing activity showed similar levels in daylight and the dark with mean numbers of 5.9 and 6.6 males per hour, respectively. Major changes in singing activity were related to the twilight periods. There were distinctive dawn and dusk choruses. In the morning, Savi's warblers exhibited similar levels of singing activity over 3 h of the dark before twilight, singing reached its highest level at twilight and 1 h after twilight. During the evening, singing activity reached its highest-level 1 h before twilight, while during twilight it was decreasing, with a considerable decline 1 h after nightfall.

KLOUBEC B., ČAPEK, M., 2005: Seasonal and diel budgets of song: a study of Savi's warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). Journal of Ornithology 146: 206-214.

International cooperation

Coevolution between an African brood parasite and its hosts

The red-chested cuckoo parasitizes many passerines in Africa, but some common species sympatric with the brood parasite are rarely used as hosts. Since very little is known about



M. Honza and M. I. Cherry at the field station in the Ndumo Game Reserve, South Africa. (Archives of the Ndumo Game Reserve)

brood parasitism on this continent, we experimentally tested responses of three turdid hosts to parasitism with artificial cuckoo egg. Our results support the hypothesis that rejection behaviour in two species (olive thrush, Kurrichane thrush) evolved as defence against interspecific parasitism, with thrushes appearing to be ahead in the host-parasite arms-race. The Cape robin, by contrast, appears not to reject cuckoo eggs, either because it is unable to recognize them, or because the cost associated with removal may be too high.

This study was made in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch (Matieland, South Africa) and it was supported by a John Ellerman Fellowship.

HONZA M., KUIPER S.M., CHERRY M.I., 2005. Behaviour of African turdid hosts towards experimental parasitism with artificial red-chested cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*. Journal of Avian Biology 36: 517–522.

Parasites associated with birds native to rainforests on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica

We undertook our research of ectoparasites on birds of the Cordillera de Talamanca mountain range in Limón province, southeastern Costa Rica. In the rainy season of 2004 (August through September), we sequentially studied birds at two locations (Hitoy Cerere Biological Reserve and Barbilla National Park) on the Caribbean slope differing in elevation and habitat character. A total of 530 individuals of 79 bird species were examined. In this contribution we focus on chewing lice (Phthiraptera) and mites (Acari: Macronyssidae) associated with hummingbirds (Trochilidae), typical antbirds (Thamnophilidae), ground antbirds (Formicariidae), manakins (Pipridae) and grosbeaks (Cardinalidae) inhabiting lowland tropical rainforests.



M. Čapek examining a long-tailed hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus* in the laboratory of Hitoy Cerere Biological Reserve, Costa Rica, August 19, 2004. (Photo by M. Havlíček)

We found five chewing lice species belonging to the genera Formicaphagus, Machaerilaemus and Myrsidea of which three are the species new to science. They and their type hosts are as follows: Formicaphagus tyrannina ex Cercomacra tyrannina (Thamnophilidae), Myrsidea mcleannani ex Phaenostictus mcleannani (Thamnophilidae) and Myrsidea klimesi ex Formicarius analis (Formicariidae). These are the first records of Myrsidea from members of the passerine families Thamnophilidae and Formicariidae. Mites were represented by three species of the genus Pellonyssus of which P. cyanoides from Cyanocopsa cyanoides is the species new to science.

Scientists from the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno, the Institute of Vertebrate Biology AS CR in Brno, the Institute of Parasitology AS CR in České Budějovice (Czech Republic) and the University of Queensland in Brisbane (Australia) collaborated on the work. We are grateful to the Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía de Costa Rica for permission to conduct our study.

DUSBÁBEK F., LITERÁK I., ČAPEK M., HAVLÍČEK M., 2006: Three species of the genus *Pellonyssus* (Acari: Macronyssidae) including a new species from Costa Rican birds. International Journal of Acarology 32: 175-178.

SYCHRA O., LITERÁK I., ČAPEK M., HAVLÍČEK M., 2006: Chewing lice (Phthiraptera) from typical antbirds and ground antbirds (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae, Formicariidae) from Costa Rica, with descriptions of three new species of the genera *Formicaphagus* and *Myrsidea*. Zootaxa 1206: 47-61.

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feeding ecology of herbivorous mammals

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Technicians

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Research priorities

Research is focused on the ecology of selected mammalian groups. The results of investigations are aimed to improve management of forest stands, game management, rodent pest control, and protection of biodiversity.

Main research topics:

- feeding ecology of large herbivores and their impact on vegetation
- · foraging ecology and anti-predator strategies of bats

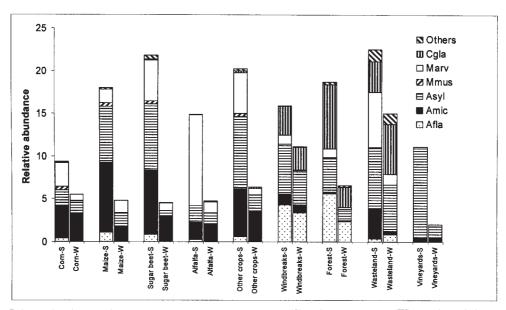
- ecology and behaviour of large carnivores, and foraging ecology and distribution of mustelids
- synecology of small terrestrial mammals
- diversity and ecology of small mammals and ungulates of West Africa

Selected research results

Structure and diversity of small mammal communities in agriculture landscape

Result of six year trappings (51,480 trap/nights, total catch 5,536 small terrestrial mammals) in various field crops and other habitats in a poorly wooded agricultural landscape of southern Moravia (Czech Republic) were presented. Fourteen small mammal species were captured; the relative population density and dominance of each species in each crop and other habitats were evaluated. According to Renkonen's index of similarity small mammal communities could be divided into two main groups: the first comprised windbreaks, small woods and fallow land with high dominance of species with affinity to forest environment; the other group is formed by open habitat communities. These were again divided into two groups: perennial crop group (as alfalfa) and one-year crop group (as corn, sugar beet, maize, and other crops). In the first group with forest affinity a higher diversity of small mammal community compared to second, open habitat one has been found. Changes of diversity index values according to the agrotechnical changes were also evaluated.

HEROLDOVÁ M., BRYJA J., ZEJDA J., TKADLEC E., 2007: Structure and diversity of small mammal communities in agriculture landscape. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 120: 206–210.

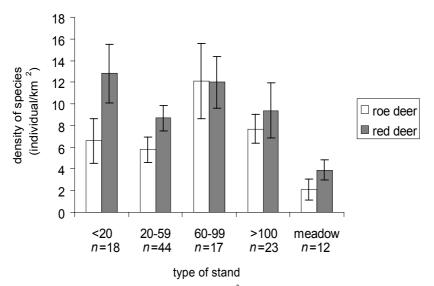


Relative abundance and community structure in spring+summer (S) and autumn+winter (W) samples in habitats studied. Cgla – *Clethrionomys glareolus*, Marv – *Microtus arvalis*, Mmus – *Mus musculus*, Asyl – *Apodemus sylvaticus*, Amic – *A. microps*, Afa – *A. flavicollis*.

Density and distribution of deer in a floodplain forest

Data on the density and distribution of deer help to protect artificial plantations and naturally regenerating stands against browsing damage, to select suitable additional feeding places and to assist in rational game management. Habitat selection by deer is best viewed as a trade-off between selection of cover and selection of food. High primary production, high biodiversity of the floodplain forest ecosystem and agricultural fields situated along the forest offer very specific conditions, which can significantly influence habitat selection of deer species living there. We analysed density and distribution of red deer and roe deer in relation to habitat structure and distribution of food sources during winters 2001–2004 in a floodplain forest along the Morava River. Densities of both species were relatively high (red and roe deer, 9.6 and 7.0 ind./km² respectively). Red deer preferred forest stands with dense cover (60–80 %) and a diversified shrub layer (more than three tree species). Roe deer mainly used old stands of age 50–99 years with a high cover of canopy layer and conversely low cover of herb layer, dominated by bramble. A positive relationship between the distributions of both species was detected. Inter-specific spatial interference was not observed, despite their high densities in the study area.

PROKEŠOVÁ J., BARANČEKOVÁ M., HOMOLKA M., 2006: Density of red deer and roe deer and their distribution in relation to different habitat characteristics in a floodplain forest. Folia Zoologica 55: 1-14.



Average values of the roe and red deer density (individual/km2) in forest stands of different age and in meadows.

Flight activity of bats during non-hibernation period

We studied the flight activity of bats under three different conditions: a) emergence and return activity of bats in maternity colonies [1], b) foraging activity of bats [2 and 3], and c) flight activity in the entrance of natural karstic cave [4].

Parameters of return activity generally occurred at lower light intensities than those of emergence at six maternity colonies of pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) in NE Scotland. Therefore, the interval between dawn return and sunrise was generally longer



Křivé Lake (floodplain forest) where the highest bat flight activity was recorded. (Photo by Z. Řehák)

than that between sunset and dusk emergence. Emergence and return were equal in duration. Bats clustered more on emergence in comparison with return during pregnancy and lactation, whereas during postlactation this trend was reversed [1].

The foraging activity of bats was studied in karstic area and various natural forests. Bat detectors were used to record echolocation calls of bats on line transects during the first half of the night. *Myotis daubentonii* was the most numerous species. The number of bat species was the highest in rocky habitats, and the lowest in agrocoenoses. The greatest intensity of flight activity of the bat community was observed over ponds and streams [2]. Generally, the level of flight activity of bats detected in lowland forests was significantly higher compared to the activity in mountain forests. The highest activity was recorded in the floodplain forest. On the contrary, the mountain spruce forest was utilized by bats only scarcely. In lowland forests, the highest activity was registered in the pregnancy period and it gradually decreased towards the end of the season. In mountain forests, the level of activity was rather well-balanced throughout the season. In spite of that the lowest activity was obtained in pregnancy period. In all forest habitats, the flight activity was higher at the beginning of the night than before midnight [3].

Activity patterns of bats were recorded automatically with a double infrared light barrier at the entrance of Kateřinská cave (Czech Republic) too. Five periods were defined on the basis of bat flight activity. All periods showed a non-random temporal distribution and a concentration of flight activity around specific time. There was a positive correlation between the number of bat passes through the entrance and outside ambient temperature and a negative correlation between the number of passes and barometric pressure. Rain had no significant effect on the level of bat activity [4].

- 1. PETRŽELKOVÁ K.J., DOWNS N.C., ZUKAL J., RACEY P.A., 2006. A comparison between emergence and return activity in pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. Acta Chiropterologica 8: 381–390.
- ZUKAL J., ŘEHÁK Z., 2006. Flight activity and habitat preference of bats in a karstic area, as revealed by bat detectors. Folia Zoologica 55: 273-281.
- 3. SIMPROVÁ, P. 2006: Časové změny v letové aktivitě společenstva netopýrů v lesním prostředí [Temporal changes in flight activity of a bat community in forest habitat]. Bakalářská práce, PřF MU: 46 pp.
- BERKOVÁ H., ZUKAL J., 2006. Flight activity of bats at the entrance of a natural cave. Acta Chiropterologica 8: 187-195.

Applications of Research Results

Evaluation of game damage to the field crops

Field crops are extensively damaged by large herbivores in many localities of the Czech Republic. To judge the impact of herbivores on the yield of crop, plants at an early stage of development were experimentally clipped to simulate browsing varying in intensity. In some fields we evaluated the extent and economic effect of wild herbivore damage on main field crops. We also analysed and developed a new method for assessing the damage to crops. The manual elaborated features free living game which cause serious damage to field crops. Pictures of main types of damage to crops are also included.

In general, damage to leaves caused only a small reduction of the yield. Winter wheat or barley crops were not influenced by a considerable reduction of leaves. Only yield of sun flower and winter rape was significantly lower in defoliated plants. Crop damages at the later stages of plant development were more important. In fields connected to the forest edge 5–50% plants were damaged. Our method allows to make accurate estimates of the extent of damages. The study provides practical guidelines for state agencies, wildlife managers and farmers.



Wild boar rooting in a pasture. (Photo by J. Kamler)



Result of roe deer browsing on sunflower. (Photo by J. Kamler)

CERKAL R., DVOŘÁK J., KAMLER J., VEJRAŽKA K., 2006. Poškozování porostů ječmene býložravci [Game damages to barley]. In: Zimolka J. (ed.), Ječmen – formy a užitkové směry v České republice. Profi Press, Praha; 120–125.

DVOŘÁK J., HOMOLKA M., HEROLDOVÁ M., KAMLER J., CERKAL R., LUJC J., SKLÁDANKA J., DOLEŽAL P., 2006. Atlas poškození polních plodin - savci [Atlas of game damages to field crops]. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno, 35 pp.

KAMLER J., HOMOLKA M., HEROLDOVÁ M., DVOŘÁK J., 2005. Volně žijící býložravci a polní plodiny [Free living ungulates and field crops]. Folia Venatoria 35: 205-210.

International Cooperation

Feeding behaviour, parasite infections and self-medicative abilities of an introduced chimpanzee population

The chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island results from an introduction of 17 individuals in the late 60ties and it is the only example of a viable, long-term self-sustaining released chimpanzee population with a minimum of human intervention at the time of release and afterwards. Our on-going research is aimed to study these chimpanzees as a model population adapted to a new environment from the aspects of feeding behaviour, self-medication, and parasite exchange among released chimpanzees and colobus monkeys (*Colobus guaraza*) and indigenous velvet monkeys (*Cercopithecus aethiops*). Obtained results will contribute to our understanding of chimpanzee behavioural and ecological flexibility and are supposed to help to increase the success of next releases.

We examined the relationship between fruit availability, dietary composition and grouping in the descendents of an introduced chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island. Tree fruit availability was positively correlated with rainfall, with a period of relative tree fruit scarcity corresponding with the long dry season. Liana fruit availability was not related to rainfall, and lianas exhibited more stable fruiting patterns across seasons. Fruits made up the majority of chimpanzee diet, with lianas accounting for 35% of dietary fruit species. Fruits of the liana Saba comorensis were available during all months of phenological monitoring, but they were consumed more when tree fruit was scarce, suggesting that S. comorensis fruits may be a fallback food for Rubondo chimpanzees. There were no increases in consumption of lower-quality plant parts between seasons, and there were no changes in nesting group size between seasons. These results contrast with evidence from several endemic chimpanzee study sites, and indicate that Rubondo chimpanzees may experience fewer ecological constraints on dietary quality and grouping patterns.

We identified three nematode species not previously reported in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) introduced on Rubondo Island, Tanzania: *Protospirura muricola*, *Subulura* sp., and *Anatrichosoma* sp. The chimpanzee pinworm, *Enterobius anthropopitheci* was redescribed based on light and scanning electron microscopy of both sexes collected from the feces of Rubondo chimpanzees.

HASEGAWA H, IKEDA Y, FUJISAKI A, MOSCOVICE L.R, PETRZELKOVA K.J., KAUR T, HUFFMAN M.A., 2005: Morphology of chimpanzee pinworms, *Enterobius (Enterobius) anthropopitheci* (Gedoelst, 1916) (Nematoda: Oxyuridae), collected from chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*, on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. Journal of Parasitology 91: 1314–1317.

MOSCOVICE L. R., ISSA M.H., PETRZELKOVA K.J., KEULER N.S., SNOWDON C.T., HUFFMAN M.A., 2007: Fruit availability, chimpanzee diet and grouping patterns on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. American Journal of Primatology 69: 1–16.

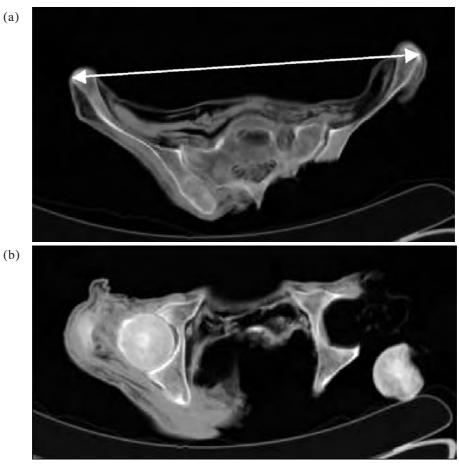
PETRZELKOVA K.J., HASEGAWA H., MOSCOVICE L.R., KAUR T, ISSA M., HUFFMAN M.A., 2006: Parasitic nematodes in the chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. International Journal of Primatology 27:767–777.



Mother and baby chimpanzee. (Photo by K. J. Petrželková)

Body proportion and bone biomechanics of the Tyrolean "Iceman" (Ötzi)

Body mass and structural properties of the femoral and tibial midshafts of the "Iceman" (Ötzi), a late Neolithic (5200 BP) mummy found in the Tyrolean Alps, are determined from computed tomographic scans of his body, and compared with those of a sample of 139 males spanning the European Early Upper Paleolithic through Bronze Age. Two methods, based on femoral head breadth and estimated stature and bi-iliac (pelvic) breath, yield identical body mass estimates of 61 kg for the Iceman. In combination with his estimated stature of 158 cm, this indicates a short but relatively wide, or stocky body compared to our total sample. His femur is about average in strength for Neolithic males, but his tibia is well above average. His femur also shows adaptations for his relatively broad body (mediolateral strengthening), while his tibia shows adaptations for high mobility over rough terrain (anteroposterior strengthening). In many respects his tibia more closely resembles those of European Mesolithic rather than Neolithic males, which may reflect a more mobile lifestyle than was characteristic of most Neolithic males, perhaps related to a pastoral subsistence strategy. There are indications that mobility in



Transverse CT scans through pelvic region (a) and CT scans of femoral heads used for body size estimate (b) (Iceman, 5200 B.P.). Left femur is postmortem dislocated from acetabulum.

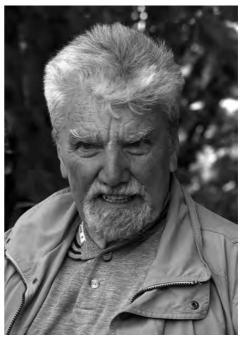
general declined between the European Mesolithic and Neolithic, and that body size and shape may have become more variable throughout the continent following the Upper Paleolithic.

The research was leaded by Christopher Ruff (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) with cooperation from United States (Brigitte Holt, University Massachusetts; William A. Murphy, University of Texas), Czech Republic (Vladimír Sládek, Institute of Vertebrate Biology) and Austria (Margit Berner, Naturhistorisches Museum; Dieter zur Nedden, Wolfgang Recheis, University of Innsbruck; Horst Seidler, University of Vienna).

RUFF C., HOLT B., SLÁDEK V., BERNER M., MURPHY W.A., NEDDEN D., SEIDLER H., RECHEIS W., 2006: Body size, body proportions, and mobility in the Tyrolean "Iceman". Journal of Human Evolution 51: 91–101.

OBITUARY

Zdeněk Veselovský (1928–2006)



Zdeněk Veselovský at the Prague Zoo in the summer of 2006 (photo by A. Pospěch).

Professor Zdeněk Veselovský was a distinguished zoologist who was a source of great inspiration to generations of ornithologists, mammalogists, and behavioural biologists in the Czech Republic. He was born in Jaroměř on 26 August 1928 and died on 24 November 2006 in Prague.

Zdeněk Veselovský was a naturalist of very broad competence, and his skills for popularization of the animal world to wide public were particularly recognized and appreciated. He was the author of more than 100 research papers and he published 35 books and textbooks. He had worked for almost 30 years as the director of the Prague ZOO (1959–1988), and he was later appointed as the professor of zoology at universities in České Budějovice and Prague.

He was a research fellow of the Institute during a short period in 1992 and 1993. This employment, provided by the Academy of Sciences, was quite important for Zdeněk Veselovský, because it enabled him to continue his scientific career in uneasy times of his life.

Zdeněk Veselovský was a man with great enthusiasm, curiosity and love of nature. His deep knowledge and warm friendly personality will be greatly missed by many.

AWARDS

In 2004, Zdeněk Hubálek was awarded the Prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic for his studies on biology of West Nile virus, the agent of encephalitis in some vertebrates including humans. The results were published in 17 scientific papers and received a wide international response (the principal 1999 paper has been cited 224 times up to February 2007). Zdeněk Hubálek's long-term research concentrates on the ecology of arthropodborne viruses and bacteria pathogenic for vertebrates, such as arboviruses and Lyme disease borreliae, and his papers have been cited almost 1 400 times. He has been assessing potential role of free-living birds in dispersal of pathogenic bacteria and viruses and is involved in the EDEN project of the 6th Framework Programme (West Nile virus, tick-borne diseases). Z. Hubálek is a member of two expert commissions of WHO.



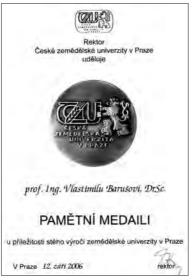
Zdeněk Hubálek (right) receives the 2004 Prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic from the former president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Helena Illnerová (left). Archives of the Press Department of the AS CR.

In 2005, Martin Reichard was awarded the Otto Wichterle Prize for his studies on general processes in population, behavioural and evolutionary biology. He uses fishes as a model group. His current research has concentrated on the evolution of reproductive strategies and mating systems, co-evolutionary dynamics and the effect of individual behaviour on population processes. He further investigates the ecology of early developmental stages of fish with a special attention to larval dispersal and the effects of biotic and abiotic factors on the success of natural reproduction. He is also involved in several projects on the ecology of tropical fishes in Senegal, Bangladesh, and China.



The Otto Wichterle Prize award ceremony 2005. Martin Reichard (left) receives the Otto Wichterle Prize for young scientists from the president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Václav Pačes (right). Photo by M. Hužvárová.

In 2006, the rector of Czech University of Agriculture in Prague awarded Vlastimil Baruš, director of the former Institute of Vertebrate Zoology and the Institute of Systematic and Ecological Biology CS AS, a commemorative medal which was struck in honour of the 100th anniversary of the university.



Commemorative medal of Czech University of Agriculture in Prague.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Institute's international collaboration is a very important part of its all research activities. Our scientists work in close collaboration and exchange their views with scholars from various institutions in many countries. Each department is involved in various forms of international co-operation and we have recently been participating in 20 international projects including six projects within the EU Sixth Framework Programme. We have been deriving much benefit from established links with foreign laboratories, however, we use any opportunity to find new contacts. The Institute organizes scientific meetings, offers study visits to foreign students and supports participation of our specialists in major scientific events abroad. Great emphasis is placed on young scientist-centred educational stays. Our scientists are members of 38 international organizations and 8 editorial boards, respectively.

International scientific meetings organized by the Institute

 8th SE European Bird Migration Network Workshop, Prague, Czech Republic, February 2-5, 2006

The 8th Workshop of Southeast European Bird Migration Network (SEEN) was jointly organized by the Institute of Vertebrate Biology and the Faculty of Science of Charles University. SEEN workshops present a fruitful discussion platform for investigators of avian migration along the less studied southeastern European flyway. A total of 46 participants from 15 countries attended the workshop. The majority of the studies reported on results of orientation experiments, however, several participants demonstrated that also other approaches, such as satellite telemetry or stable isotope analysis are being adopted. These modern methods have challenged the traditional view of avian migrations and enable to answer hitherto unthinkable questions. An important lecture was held by Zdeněk Hubálek from the Department of Medical Zoology, Institute of Vertebrate Biology of the ASCR on avian influenza, followed by a discussion how the network could contribute to the understanding of possible spread of the H5N1 virus. The next workshop will be held in Kraków in 2007.

• Conference "Zoologické dny 2006" [Zoological Days 2006], Brno, February 9-10, 2006

Long-term tradition of the "Zoological days" conference goes back to 1969 and it is connected with the Institute of Vertebrate Biology and the former Institute of Vertebrate Zoology. Nevertheless, its scope and contents has changed as all lifestyle in the Czech Republic after the velvet revolution in 1989. Former meeting of Czech and Slovak zoologists serving as forum of the Czech Zoological Society (co-organizer) became a serious yearly scientific conference where mainly students and young researchers present actual results of their research focussed on various aspects of both vertebrate and invertebrate zoology. The student competition is organized thanks to the sponsorship of the OLYMPUS company which became a regular co-operative partner of the conference. In 2006, six students received awards for their outstanding presentations. Since students presented at least half of all posters and lectures (total number of presentations: 143 lectures and 136 posters) this sponsorship was a great help. Since 2003, the conference has been held at the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University Brno (co-organizer) and approximately 350 both professional and amateur zoologists from the Czech and Slovak Republics participated in it every year.



Participants of the conference watching a presentation in a lecture theatre at Masaryk University (photo by M. Stanko).

Participation in international conferences

- ESF BIRD Final Conference, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, February 16-20, 2005
- Man and Biosphere Meeting, Simenti, Senegal, March 1-2, 2005
- Annual International Symposium FSBI: Fish Habitat Ecology and Conservation, Bangor, Wales, United Kingdom, July 18–22, 2005
- 9th International Congress of Mammalogy, Sapporo, Japan, July 31 August 5, 2005
- 10th Congress of European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Krakow, Poland, August 15-20, 2005
- 29th Ethological Conference, Budapest, Hungary, August 20-27, 2005
- 5th Conference of the European Ornithologists' Union, Strasbourg, France, August 20–23, 2005
- 10th European Bat Research Symposium, Galway, Ireland, August 21-26, 2005
- Applied Ornithology 2005, Zvolen, Slovakia, September 16-17, 2005
- 13th Meeting of the International Hamsterworkgroup, Illmitz, Austria, October 14-17, 2005
- 5th Asia-Pacific Congress of Entomology, Jeju, South Korea, October 18-21, 2005
- European Otter Workshop, Padula, Italy, October 20-23, 2005
- Ecology of Stream Fish: State of the Art and Future Prospects II, León, Spain, June 12-16, 2006
- EIFAC International Symposium, Mondsee, Austria, June 12-17, 2006
- 11th International Behavioral Ecology Congress, Tours, France, July 23-29, 2006
- Genetics of speciation, Vancouver, Canada, July 21-24, 2006
- Behavioral Ecology Congress, Tours, France, July 23–30, 2006
- International Congress of Parasitology, Glasgow, United Kingdom, August 6-11, 2006

- 24th International Ornithological Congress, Hamburg, Germany, August 13-19, 2006
- 36th International Conference, International Association for Danube Research, Vienna, Austria, September 4-8, 2006
- Applied Ornithology 2006, Zvolen, Slovakia, September 8-9, 2006

Membership in international organizations

ALBRECHT T. International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE)

BARUŠ V. Sociedad Cubana de Parasitologia Animal, honorary chairman

BÍMOVÁ B. International Mammalian Genome Society

BRYJA J. Steering Committee of European Science Foundation
ČAPEK M. IOC Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature
ČERVENÝ J. Ad Hoc Group for Environmental Problems of COST

(Council for Research and Development, EU)

Czech National Committee of the MAB Programme

Working Group for Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe

GVOŽDÍK L. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

American Society of Naturalists British Herpetological Society

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Society for the Study of Evolution

Steering Committee of European Science Foundation Steering Committee of European Science Foundation

JURAJDA P. Fisheries Society of British Isles MARTÍNKOVÁ N. Society of Systematic Biologists

MRLÍK V. Peregrine Fund, World Center for Birds of Prey

Working Group for Montagu's Harrier

World Working Groups on Birds of Prey and Owls

KOUBEK P. Working Group for Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe

PIÁLEK J. European Society for Evolutionary Biology

International Mammalian Genome Society

Societas Europea Herpetologica

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Society for the Study of Evolution

PROCHÁZKA P. Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft

REICHARD M. Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour

British Ecological Society

European Society for Evolutionary Biology

Fisheries Society of the British Isles

SLÁDEK V. Paleoantropology Society (USA)

ZIMA J. Czech National Committee of the IUBS

International Advisory Board, BIOTER Centre of Excellence (EU)

Insectivores Specialits Group SSC IUCN

International Sorex araneus Cytogenetics Committee

Rodents Specialists Group SSC IUCN Societas Europaea Mammalogica

HONZA M.

Membership in editorial boards

BARUŠ V. Transactions of the Zoological Society of India

Helminthologia

BLAHÁK, P. Folia Zoologica (managing editor)

GVOŽDÍK, L. Folia Zoologica HONZA M. Folia Zoologica HUBÁLEK Z. Cryobiology

Folia Parasitologica

KOUBEK, P. Folia Zoologica LUSK S.: Folia Zoologica

PEŇÁZ M. Folia Zoologica (editor-in-chief)

Quaderni E.T.P. - Journal of Freshwater Biology

Polskie Archiwum Hydrobiologii

SLABÁKOVÁ H. Folia Zoologica

ZIMA J. Hystrix - Italian Journal of Mammalogy

Folia Zoologica

EDUCATION AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Institute lays great emphasis on education and teaching activities. In 2005-2006, we gave lectures at seven faculties of seven universities and supervised 61 undergraduates and 53 postgraduates from 11 faculties of eight universities. Another important fact is that 19 and 9 students supervised by the staff succeeded in obtaining their MSc and PhD degrees, respectively. We have accreditation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic to perform post-gradual studies in zoology at the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, and the Faculty of Biological Sciences, South Bohemian University in České Budějovice. We participate in research projects carried out in two joint laboratories, "Evolutionary Genetics of Animals" (established by the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR in Liběchov and the Institute of Vertebrate Biology in Brno) and "Ichthyoparasitology - The Centre of Basic Research" (established by the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno and the Institute of Vertebrate Biology in Brno). These laboratories provide a firm basis for better interaction between the Academy of Sciences CR and universities, which helps to make the institute attractive to students. Moreover, the scientists of the Institute are members of scientific councils and boards at universities.

Teaching at universities

Lastunan	Subject	2005	2006	Faculty/
Lecturer	Subject	hours	hours	University
Albrecht T.	Modern statistical methods	20	20	6
Bryja J.	Molecular ecology	24	24	1
	Population ecology	8	8	1
Čapek M.	Ornithology	48	48	1
Červený J.	Vertebrate Zoology	28	28	7
-	Field course of zoology	60	60	2
	Zoology for game-keepers	26	26	7
Halouzka J.	Tutorials in immunology	8	8	1
Honza M.	Ecology of birds	26	26	1
Hubálek Z.	Fundamentals of microbiology	30	30	1
	Microbial zoonoses and sapronoses	30	30	1
	Tutorials in microbiology	60	60	1
Jurajda P.	Ecology of fish	26	26	1
Koubek P.	Game biology	22	22	1
Lusk S.	Ichthyology	36	36	1
Prokeš M.	Ichthyology	4	4	3
Sládek V.	Biological anthropology 2	54	54	4
	Biological anthropology for archeologists 1	65	65	4
	Biological anthropology for archeologists 2	65	65	4
	Human variability and adaptability	54	54	4
	Locomotor system 1	65	65	4
	Tutorials in anthropology	13	13	4
Svobodová J.	Animal ecology	14	14	7
	Biodiversity	3	3	7
	Ecological methods	8	8	7
	Field course of nature preservation	42	42	7
	Field course of zoology	17	17	7

	General ecology	28	28	7
	Zoology	52	52	7
Tkadlec E.	Life history	30	30	5
	Population ecology	45	45	5
	Scientific methodology	30	30	5
	Time series in ecology	15	15	5
	Tutorials (MSc students)	30	30	5
	Tutorials (PhD students)	20	20	5
Zima J.	Biodiversity	26+26	26+26	1,6
	Field course of zoology	42	42	6
	Genetical methods in zoology	12	12	6
	Systematics and phylogeny of vertebrates	13	13	6
Zukal J.	Behavioral ecology	45	45	1
	Ethology	26	26	1
	Chiropterology	22	22	1
Total 16	42	1333	1333	7/7

¹ Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno

Undergraduate students working in the Institute and/or supervised by the Institute's fellows in 2005-2006

Student	Supervisor/ Consultant	2005	2006	Defended the theses	Faculty/ University
Bartoňová E.	Lusková V.	+	+		1
Bednářová J.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Bejdák P.	Bryja J.		+		1
Bémová P.	Bryja J.	+		2005	9
Bencová V.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Bendová P.	Jurajda P.	+	+		7
Daniszová K.	Červený J.	+	+	2006	8
Dařenová E.	Bryja J.	+	+	2006	1
Doležálková I.	Hubálek Z.		+		1
Dufková P.	Piálek J.	+	+	2006	9
Fainová D.	Procházka P.		+		9
Fornůsková A.	Bryja J.		+		1
Franěk J.	Zukal J.	+	+	2006	1
Friedl L.	Sládek V.	+	+	2006	6
Gryc L.	Zukal J.	+	+	2006	1
Hnojská V.	Sládek V.		+		6
Hrabec M.	Kamler J.	+	+		3
Hoenig V.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Jamrich A.	Gvoždík L.	+	+	2006	11
Janková J.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Jarošová V.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Javůrková V.	Albrecht T.	+	+		7

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Kalinová Z.	Koubek P.		+		10
Konečná G.	Jurajda P.		+		1
Konečný A.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Koubínová D.	Zima J.	+	+		8
Koubová M.	Svobodová J.	+	+		9
Křížová P.	Bryja J.		+		1
Loudová J.	Svobodová J.	+	+		10
Mazurová E.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Měřáková E.	Gvoždík L.		+		1
Michálek B.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Mikeska M.	Čapek M.	+		2005	2
Mrštný L.	Červený J.	+	+	2006	10
Nentvichová M.	Červený J	+	+	2006	10
Novák Z.	Červený J.	+		2005	8
Ondrouchová H.	Bryja J.		+		1
Pankowská A.	Sládek V.	+	+		6
Paták Ladislav	Tkadlec E.	+	+		1
Patzenhauerová H.	Bryja J.	+	+		1
Patzenhauerová H.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Petrášová I.	Reichard M.		+		1
Polačik M.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Promerová M.	Bryja J.	+	+		1
Průchová E.	Sládek V.	+		2005	5
Průchová E.	Sládek V.	+	+	2006	6
Rybaříková J.	Honza M.	+		2005	1
Řežucha R.	Reichard M.		+		1
Simprová P.	Zukal J.		+		1
Slavíková K.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Staněk D.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Suvorov P.	Albrecht T.	+	+		8
Svobodová P.	Hubálek Z.		+		1
Šovčík P.	Prokeš M.	+	+		4
Štrom V.	Reichard M.		+		1
Švanyga J.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Tkadlčíková R.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Vávra F.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Vinkler M.	Albrecht T.	+	+		8
Vrtílek M.	Reichard M.		+		1
Zemanová B.	Bryja J.	+	+	2006	1
Zifčák P.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Total 61	20	46	54	19	11/8

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¹¹ Faculty of Science, Komenský University, Bratislava, Slovakia

PhD students working in the Institute and/or supervised by the Institute's fellows in 2005-2006

Student	Supervisor/	2005	2006	Defended	Faculty/	
	Consultant	2005	2000	the theses	University	
Barančeková M.	Koubek P.	+		2005	1	
Bednářová J.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
Berková H.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
Bímová B.	Piálek J.	+	+		5	
Čížková D.	Bryja J.		+		1	
Daďourek M.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Dufková P.	Piálek J.		+		6	
Ďureje Ľ.	Piálek J.	+	+		i	
Dvořák J.	Gvoždík L.	+	+		1	
Fejková P.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Foltánková V.	Reichard M.	+	+		1	
	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Gregor P.		+	+			
Hájková P.	Jurajda P.				1	
Hejtmánková M.	Gvoždík L.	+	+		4	
Honzírek J.	Koubek P.	+	+		2	
Horák A.	Piálek J.	+	+	****	6	
Horák V.	Lusk S.	+		2005	1	
Hulová Š.	Bryja J.		+		6	
Janáč M.l	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Jánová E.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		1	
Kocurová M.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Konečná M.	Reichard M.		+		1	
Konečný A.	Bryja J.	+	+		1	
Lazarová J.	Zima J.	+		2005	5	
Ležalová R.	Honza M.	+	+		6	
Lisická L.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Losik J.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Mendel J.	Lusková V.	+	+		i	
Měštková L.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Mikulíček P.	Piálek J.	+		2005	5	
Němečková I.	Mrlík V.	+	+	2006	1	
Nová P.	Zima J.	+	+	2006	5	
Novák V.	Zima J. Zukal J.	+	+	2000	1	
Nováková M.	Koubek P.	+	+		1	
Pokorný M.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
•		+	+		_	
Polačik M. Polačiková L.	Jurajda P.	+			1	
	Honza M.	+	+		1	
Poláková R.	Bryja J.		+		1	
Požgayová M.	Honza M.	+	+	2005	1	
Prokešová J.	Homolka M.	+		2005	1	
Sychra J.	Adámek Z.	+	+		1	
Sicha V.	Honza M.	+	+		1	
Sikutová S.	Halouzka J.	+	+		1	
Švanyga J.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Thelenová J.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Trebatická L.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Valová Z.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Vallo P.	Koubek P.	+	+		1	
Varfalvyová D.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Vetešník L.	Lusk S.	+		2005	3	
=-	-				-	

Vyskočilová M	. Piálek J.	+		2005	1
Zachařová J.	Červený J.	+	+		5
Zemanová B.	Bryja J.		+		1
Total 53	16	47	46	9	6/5

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The "Institute" publishes the international journal "Folia Zoologica". The journal is covered by many reference journals, including the Current Contents. The current value of the impact factor for 2005 amounts 0.585.

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Hana S L A B Á K O V Á

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From 2005 through 2006, altogether 102 papers were published (2005: 57, 2006: 45) of which 48 articles concerning ichthyology (2005: 24, 2006: 24), 37 mammalogy (2005: 30, 2006: 17), 15 ornithology (2005: 12, 2006: 3) one batrachology (2006), and one article was interdisciplinary (2005), respectively.

The authors originate from 26 countries, as follows: Czech Republic 75 articles (2005: 52, 2006: 23), Spain 32 (2005: 12, 2006: 20), Poland 24 (2005: 11, 2006: 13), Germany 19 (2005: 13, 2006: 6), United Kingdom 17 (2005: 5, 2006: 12), Portugal 16 (2005: 3, 2006: 13), Slovakia 16 (2005: 10, 2006: 6), China 15 (2005: 13, 2006: 2), Croatia 15 (2005: 10, 2006: 5), Turkey 14 (2005: 9, 2006: 5), Italy 13 (2005: 8, 2006: 5), Belgium 11 (2005), Russia 9 (2005: 8, 2006: 1), Greece 8 (2005: 5, 2006: 3), Argentina 7 (2005: 4, 2006: 3), Hungary 5 (2005: 3, 2006: 2), Austria 4 (2005: 1, 2006: 3), Iran 4 (2006), Slovenia 4 (2005), Belarus 3 (2005), France 3 (2005: 1 2006: 2), Finland 2 (2006), New Zealand 2 (2005: 1, 2006: 1), Lithuania 1 (2006), Uganda 1 (2006), and USA 1 (2006), respectively.

Biennial Report 2005-2006

Periodical continuation of the former Institute's bulletins Vertebratologické Zprávy (1969–1987), Zprávy ÚSEB (1988–1991) and the ILE Biennial Report (1993–1994).

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PREFACE

I am glad to introduce this traditional report summarizing the main results of scientific activities of the Institute during the last two years. The most important event in this period was the transformation of the Institute into a public research institution. This process was completed at the end of 2006.



The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has undergone profound changes in relation to varied scientific and organisational

aspects since its foundation in 1993. This transformation included also human resources and the Academy has become a modern, democratically administrated cluster of autonomous, non-university research institutes. The institutes of the Academy of Sciences were state contributory organisations, which was quite unusual legal form within the European Union. The legal subjectivity of the institutes was restricted, and this fact weakened their independency in respect of both the economic area and the cooperation with other subjects.

The acceptance of Act No. 341/2005 Coll. on Public Research Institutions made it possible to remove these deficiencies. The act introduced a new form of legal entity – a public institution, with principal activities in the research area and with significant provision of an infrastructure for research. Besides the main research performance, the Institute may now realize also secondary and other activities for profit, subject to legal restrictions.

After January 1, 2007, further transformation steps follow. The members of the Council of the Institute have been elected, and public competition for the post of the director has been announced. All these changes will certainly have a profound influence on the life and the research performance of the Institute in the future.

The last two years can be considered fruitful for the Institute and its staff. The fellows were particularly successful in raising funds for grant projects. The institutional budget assigned from the state contribution in the frame of the Institutional Research Plan achieved approximately 22 and 23 million CZK in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Additional 14 million CZK were provided in both the years for investment into laboratory equipment and maintenance of buildings. Research grants and diverse contracting funding contributed to the budget with 16 and 26.5 million CZK in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

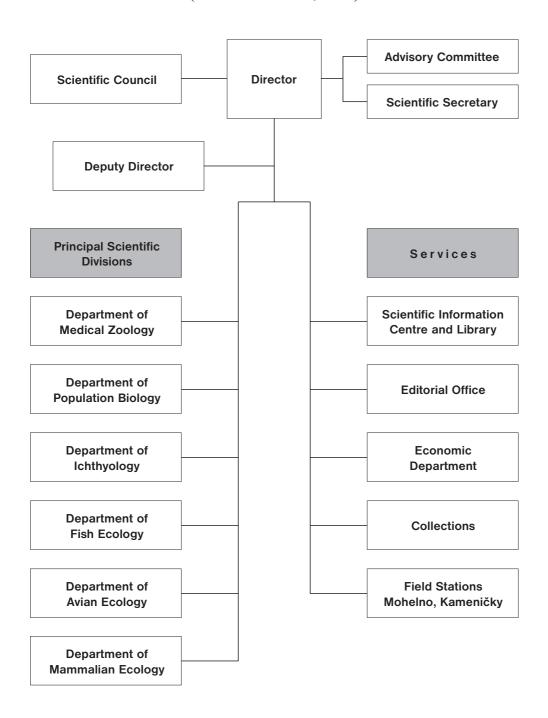
In the previous two years, the Institute employed 61 fellows paid from the institutional sources, and additional 36 fellows were contracted on the basis of research grant funding. In the respective period, 18 foreign workers were employed.

The scientific achievements of the Institute are summarized in the list of publications. Altogether, 267 scientific contributions authored by the fellows of the Institute were published in 2005–2006. Almost 100 papers appeared in international journals included in databases of the Web of Science. The total impact factor of these publications was 69.7 in 2005 and 67.1 in 2006, what indicates a remarkable increase in comparison with 2003 and 2004 (total impact factor of 40.4 and 46.9, respectively). I hope the Institute will continue this successful development towards research excellence also in the next years.

Jan Zima

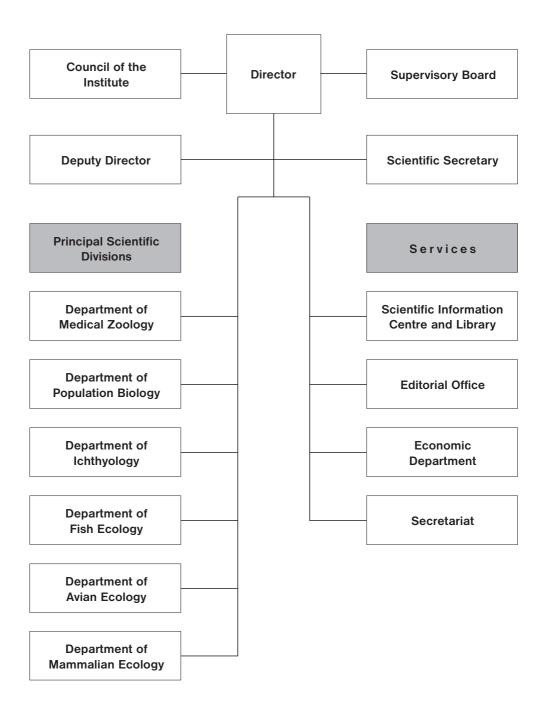
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(until December 31, 2006)



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Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Zdeněk Ř E H Á K, PhD

(Masaryk University, Brno)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Institutional Research Plan

AV0Z60930519 Biodiversity and ecology of vertebrates: implications in conservation and sustainable management of natural populations - J. Zima, 2005-2010

Projects supported by the Grant Agency of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

- **IAA6093403** Evolutionary determinants of brood parasitism in ducks P. Musil (Charles University, Prague), M. Honza (IVB AS CR), 2004-2008
- IAA6093404 Species diversity and ecology of selected West African vertebrates P. Koubek (IVB AS CR), M. Gelnar (Masaryk University, Brno), P. Hejcmanová (Czech University of Agriculture, Prague), 2004-2008
- IAA600930506 Behavioral and genetic study of prezygotic isolation barriers in the house mouse hybrid zone J. Piálek, 2005-2008
- **IAA600930605** Evolution of antiparasitic strategies of selected hosts towards avian brood parasitism M. Honza, 2006-2010
- IAA600930608 The role of MHC in sexual selection observational and experimental study in three model vertebrate species J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), A. Šimková (Masaryk University, Brno), 2006–2008
- IAA600930609 Genetic structure of chamois populations in Central Europe J. Zima, 2006-2009
- IAA600930611 (Re)emerging mosquito-borne virus diseases Z. Hubálek (IVB AS CR), J. Januška (Institute of Public Health, Ostrava), 2006–2008
- **IBS5045111** Molecular and other genetic markers applied in conservation of populations of endangered, rare and vanishing fish species in the Czech Republic P. Ráb (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), V. Lusková (IVB AS CR), 2001-2005
- **KJB6005301** What happens when *Reynoutria* taxa reproduce by means other than vegetative? K. Bímová (Institute of Botany AS CR, Průhonice), J. Piálek (IVB AS CR), 2003–2006
- **KJB600930501** The impact of mating tactics on individual reproductive success and population parameters in the European bitterling: behavioural and genetic approach M. Reichard, 2005-2007
- **KJB600930508** European reed warbler populations across a migratory divide: insights into migration by analyses of DNA sequences, stable isotopes and ringing recoveries P. Procházka, 2005-2007
- **KJB600930610** Phylogeography and evolutionary history of a semi-fossorial rodent *Microtus subterraneus* N. Martínková, 2006–2008
- **KJB600930611** Brood parasitism as an alternative reproductive strategy of ducks: genetically endocrinological approach R. Ležalová, 2006-2008
- **KJB600930613** Diversity of cultivable microorganisms of ixodid ticks, recognized vectors of vertebrate pathogens I. Rudolf (IVB AS CR), P. Švec (Masaryk University, Brno), 2006–2008
- KJB600930615 Feeding behavior, parasite infections and self-medicative abilities of an introduced chimpanzee population, Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania K. Petrželková, 2006-2008

1QS500450513 Population and genetic structure of brown trout and grayling as groundwork for efficient management of fisheries in salmonid waters – V. Šlechta (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), K. Halačka (IVB AS CR), 2005–2009

Projects supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic

- GA206/03/0726 Ecology of emerging arthropod-borne microorganisms Z. Hubálek, 2003-2005
- GA206/03/0757 Assessment of population size and population structure of Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) in different habitats by a non-invasive genetic method J. Zima, 2003-2005
- GA206/04/2003 Ecological interactions in populations of small rodents E. Tkadlec (Palacký University, Olomouc), I. Pavlík (Veterinary Research Institute, Brno), M. Heroldová (IVB AS CR), 2004-2006
- GA206/05/2159 Genetic, population and reproductive variability of invasive fish species, *Carassius "gibelio"* with alternating bisexual/asexual reproduction in central Europe V. Lusková (IVB AS CR), J. Flajšhans (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), V. Šlechta (Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR, Liběchov), 2005-2007
- GA206/06/0851 Extra-pair fertilizations and the strength of sexual selection in socially monogamous passerine T. Albrecht (IVB AS CR), P. Muclinger (Charles University, Prague), 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0953 Phenotypic plasticity of thermal physiology traits in newts L. Gvoždík, 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0954 Intraspecific variability of populations of two cryptic bat species of genus *Pipistrellus* in Central Europe Z. Řehák (Masaryk university, Brno), J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), 2006-2008
- GA206/06/0955 Genetics J. Piálek, 2006-2008
- GA524/03/0061 Comparative studies on dracunculoid nematodes, with special reference to agents of serious diseases of fish F. Moravec (Institute of Parasitology AS CR, České Budějovice), V. Baruš (IVB AS CR), 2003-2005
- GA524/04/1115 Fluctuating asymmetry in fish parasites: a new aproach to assess environmental stress of aquatic ecosystem? B. Koubková (Masaryk University, Brno), M. Machala (Veterinary Research Institute, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2004-2006
- GA524/04/1128 MHC class IIB genes of European cyprinid fish: their genetic variability and evolution in relation to the host life-history traits and parasitism A. Šimková (Masaryk university, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2004–2006
- GA524/06/0264 Ciliates of genus *Troglodytella*: pathogens or endosymbionts? Novel approach towards veterinary care and understanding digestion in apes D. Modrý (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), K. Petrželková (IVB AS CR), S. Kišidayová (Institute of Animal Pysiology SAS, Košice, Slovakia), 2006–2008
- GA524/06/0687 Importance of red fox in different ecosystems of Central Europe J. Červený (IVB AS CR), M. Anděra (National Museum, Prague), K. Šťastný (Czech University of Agriculture, Prague), 2006-2008
- GD524/05/H536 Evolutionary ecological analysis of biological systems: research center for PhD studies M. Chytrý (Masaryk university, Brno), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR), 2005-2008
- **GP206/03/P134** Feeding strategy of large herbivore mammals between forest and field habitats J. Kamler, 2003–2005

- GP206/06/P152 Reproductive isolating mechanisms in *Nothobranchius* fishes (Aplocheilidae)
 M. Reichard, 2006–2008
- GP206/06/P302 Genetic structure of black grouse populations in the Czech Republic J. Svobodová, 2006-2008
- **GP524/05/P291** Parasitism and invasive species: effect of parasite infection on the biology of *Neogobius kessleri* in its native and introduced range M. Ondračková, 2005–2006

Projects supported by the Ministry of Agriculture

- GAZV QF3028 Development of new technologies of rearing commercially important riverine species of fish and crayfish endangered by environment degradation P. Kozák (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), J. Barthová (Charles University, Prague), P. Spurný (Mendel Agriculture and Forestry University, Brno), S. Navrátil (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), M. Prokeš (IVB AS CR), 2003–2007
- GAZV QF3029 Harmonization with the EU in application of the principles of pharmacovigilancy in aquaculture in the Czech Republic V. Piačková (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice), J. Hajšlová (Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague), Z. Svobodová (University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno), M. Prokeš (IVB AS CR), T. Barth (Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry AV CR, Prague), 2003–2007
- GAZV QF4192 Methodology of evaluation of damages caused by game to field crops - J. Kamler (IVB AS CR), J. Dvořák (Mendel Agriculture and Forestry University, Brno), 2004-2006

Projects supported by the Ministry of Environment

SM/6/3/05 Genetic diversity of endangered fish species - base of effective protection of biodiversity - S. Lusk, 2005-2007

Management plan of large carnivores (brown bear, wolf, lynx) in the Czech Republic - P. Koubek, 2003-2005

Projects supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

- LC522 Ichthyoparasitology Research Center M. Gelnar (Masaryk University, Brno), T. Scholz (Institute of Parasitology AS CR, České Budějovice), P. Jurajda (IVB AS CR) Brno), 2005–2009
- LC06073 Biodiversity Research Center P. Kindlman (Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology AS CR, České Budějovice), and other seven partners, including J. Zima (IVB AS CR), 2005-2011

International projects

European Union - 6th Framework Programme

Integrated project EDEN (no. 010284-2) Emerging diseases in a changing European environment (coordinated by CIRAD Montpellier, France) – Z. Hubálek, 2004–2008

- Integrated project MODELKEY (no. SSPI-CT-2003-511237-2) Models for assessing and forecasting the impact of environmental key pollutants on marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity (coordinated by Umweltforschungszentrum Leipzig Halle GmbH, Germany) P. Jurajda, 2005-2010
- Integrated consortium on ticks and tick-borne diaseases (ICTTD 3) L. Grubhofer (Biology Center AS CR, České Budějovice), Z. Hubálek (IVB AS CR), 2004-2008
- Marie Curie research training network SEXASEX (no. MRTN-CT-2004-512492) Sex to asex: a case study on transitions and coexistence between sexual and asexual reproduction (coordinated by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium) J. Zima, 2004-2009
- Marie Curie intra-European fellowship PHYLOMICROTUS (no. 24956) Phylogeography of the Orkney vole *Microtus arvalis orcadensis* (cooperation with University of York, UK) N. Martínková, 2006–2008
- **Project INTAS** (no. 03-51-4030) A multidisciplinary study of hybrid zones in the common shrew (coordinated by the University of York, UK) J. Zima, 2004–2007

Other EU projects

- **European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme** Integrating population genetics and conservation biology: Merging theoretical, experimental and applied approaches J. Bryja (member of the steering committee), 2004–2009
- **European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme** Thermal adaptation in ectotherms: Linking life history, physiology, behaviour and genetics L. Gvoždík (member of the steering committee), 2006–2011
- Large Scale Facility Project (no. HPRI-CT-2001-00180) Intraspecific diversity in selected cyprinid fish species in the conditions of Central Europe (coordinated by the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK) J. Mendel, 2005
- Bavarian Interreg-IIIA-Project Wildlife and human in Bavarian-Czech-Austrian border region
 example of the otter (cooperation with the Bavarian Forest Institute and Technical University of Munich, Germany)
 P. Hájková, 2006–2007
- IUCN and European Commission Assessment of European mammal species J. Zima (participant), 2006-2007

Bilateral projects

- PPP Programme DAAD AS CR (project no. D2-CZ30/04-05) Mechanisms of speciation in rodents - H. Burda (University Essen-Duisburg, Germany), J. Zima (IVB AS CR), 2004-2005
- Programme KONTAKT (project no. 26) Zoogeography, taxonomy and phylogeography of mammals in south-eastern Europe, Asia Minor and South Africa - V. Vohralík (Charles University, Prague), J. Zima (IVB AS CR), B. Kryštufek (University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia), 2005-2006
- Programme KONTAKT (project no. 144) Variability of social system in *Apodemus* mice (Rodentia) - M. Stanko (Institute of Zoology SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia), J. Bryja (IVB AS CR), 2004-2005
- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Brno Bioarchaelogy of the Holocene populations of Central Europe: reconstruction of mobility and manipulative behaviour V. Sládek (IVB

- AS CR), M. Berner (Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria), P. Galeta (University of West Bohemia, Plzeň), 2006
- Integrated Bilateral Project Development of new methods for the laboratory diagnostics of West Nile Virus disease in human and some other animals (cooperation with Istituto Zooprofilatico e Sperimentale, Teramo, Italy) Z. Hubálek, 2004-2005

Individual projects

- **Leverhulme Trust (UK)**, project Adaptation and coevolution in an unusual symbiosis (cooperation with University of Leicester, UK) M. Reichard, 2003-2005
- Natural Environment Research Council (UK), project Stoats and the Irish question (cooperation with University of York, UK) N. Martínková, 2005
- **The Leakey Foundation (USA)**, general grant The possible role of ciliate (*Troglodytella abrassarti*) in chimpanzee hind gut fermentation K. Petrželková, 2006–2007.
- **British Ecological Society (UK)**, early career project grant (ref no. 551-617) Phenotypic correlates of lifetime reproductive success in the bitterling fish M. Reichard, 2006-2007

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PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

Department of Medical Zoology

Head

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Technicians

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Research priorities

Research is focused on the ecology of selected microbial pathogens (including new emerging diseases), the causative agents of human and animal infections. The phenomenon of natural focality is studied in respect of the role of wild endotherm vertebrates (hosts or reservoirs) and hematophagous arthropods (vectors) and under effects of the recently globally changing natural conditions.

Main research topics:

- arboviruses (i.e. viruses transmitted by ticks, mosquitoes and other hematophagous arthropods, such as the West Nile, Sindbis, Ťahyňa, and tick-borne encephalitis viruses)
- spirochetes (*Borrelia burgdorferi*, the agent of Lyme borreliosis) and some other bacterial agents
- circulation of these pathogens in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems under changing natural conditions including human impact
- development and optimalisation of a new molecular-biological methods for the detection and characterization of the pathogens studied
- prophylactic strategy establishment and prevention of free-living vertebrates and humans in relation to preventive medicine (human and veterinary), environmental protection, and nature conservation



Staff of the Department of Medical Zoology - right to left: J. Halouzka, Z. Juřicová, Z. Hubálek, L. Ševčíková, I. Rudolf, S. Šikutová, J. Peško. (Photo by R. Krbeček).

Selected research results

Migratory birds and avian influenza A virus H5N1 - its spread in Eurasia, possible introduction to America and continental dispersal

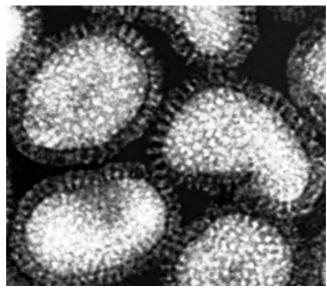
Water anseriform birds are the reservoir of a majority of influenza A viruses, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Marked lethality of its H5N1 subtype seemed to limit the role of migratory birds in the dispersal. However, the situation changed as HPAI H5N1 virus has expanded rapidly across Asia and into Europe and Africa, and migratory birds contributed to this dispersal. Birds could theoretically introduce H5N1 virus to the Western Hemisphere through migration, vagrancy and translocation by people (bird trade). Vagrants and migratory birds are not likely inter-hemispheric introductory hosts; import of infected domestic or pet birds is more probable. In the case of successful introduction, the virus might spread over the continent easily, with migratory anseriform birds (swans, geese, and ducks) playing a similar role as in Eurasia.

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HUBÁLEK Z., 2006: Migratory birds and influenza virus. 8th Workshop of the Southeastern European Bird Migration Network (SEEN), Prague, abstract.

HUBÁLEK Z., 2006: Ptačí chřipka a tažní ptáci [Bird influenza and migrating birds]. Crex 26: 131-137.

RAPPOLE J.H., HUBÁLEK, Z., 2006: Birds and influenza H5N1 virus movement to and within North America. Emerging Infectious Diseases 12: 1486-1492.



Virions of the influenza A virus (WHO 2006).

Import of West Nile virus infection in the Czech Republic

We report West Nile virus infection of the central nervous system in a 69-year-old man, residing in North Moravia (Czech Republic), who visited the USA from 6 July to 31 August 2002. He developed fever with fatigue at the end of his USA stay. He was hospitalized after his return with fever up to 39.5 °C, fatigue, anorexia, dizziness, insomnia, blurred speech, and a marked bradypsychism. A significant increase of antibodies neutralizing West Nile virus was detected between the first (1:16) and second (1:256) blood serum sample. The pacient recovered gradually. This is the first recorded human case of West Nile fever imported to the Czech Republic.

HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., JUŘICOVÁ Z., 1999: West Nile fever in Czechland. Emerging Infectious Diseases 5: 594-595.

HUBÁLEK Z., LUKÁČOVÁ L., HALOUZKA J., ŠIRŮČEK P., JANUŠKA J, PŘECECHTĚLOVÁ J., PROCHÁZKA P., 2006: Import of West Nile virus infection in the Czech Republic. European Journal of Epidemiology 21: 323-324.

Applications of research results

Effects of forest clearing on the abundance of *Ixodes ricinus* ticks and the prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l.

Questing *Ixodes ricinus* ticks were collected on a forest trail that had been completely cleared of shrubs and ground vegetation in winter 2002 and on a nearby control uncleared forest transect in South Moravia (Czech Republic). Samples were collected each May in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Nymphal ticks were 3.4, 1.9 and 1.2 times less frequent on cleared forest than on uncleared trails in the three perspective years, whereas adult tick abundance was 27.2, 4.0 and

2.2 times lower, respectively. The ticks were examined for borreliae by dark-field microscopy: prevalence of nymphal ticks infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* (12.6% to 20.0%) did not differ significantly between the cleared and uncleared trail during the three years. In conclusion, the habitat modification appeared to result in a decreased abundance of *I. ricinus* as well as a reduced frequency of infected ticks (and thus indirectly a lower potential risk of Lyme borreliosis), which lasted, however, for only two years. Eight cultures of borreliae isolated from the ticks were all identified as the "ornithophilic" genomic species *Borrelia garinii*, possibly indicating a greater role of forest birds than that of forest rodents as the hosts of immature *I. ricinus* in the tick (and borrelial) colonization of the cleared part of the forest.

HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., JUŘICOVÁ Z., 2003: Longitudinal surveillance of the tick *Ixodes ricinus* for borreliae. Medical and Veterinary Entomology 17: 46-51.

HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., JUŘICOVÁ Z., ŠIKUTOVÁ S., RUDOLF I., 2006: Effect of forest clearing on the abundance of *Ixodes ricinus* ticks and the prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. Medical and Veterinary Entomology 20: 166–172.



L. Ševčíková handling biological material in a hazard box. (Photo by I. Rudolf)

International cooperation

Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato in the tick *Ixodes ricinus* in the Styrian Mountains of Austria

A total of 691 Ixodes ricinus ticks (22 males, 39 females, 501 nymphs and 129 larvae) were collected by flagging method from vegetation in 11 areas at altitudes between 789 and 1350 m above sea level in mixed woodland with pastureland and cattle in the province of Styria (Austria). They were examined for presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. by dark field microscopy and PCR. Attempts to cultivate borreliae were made in BSK-H medium. The overall positivity rate of all collected ticks (excepting larvae) was 10.9%: 9.1% in males, 17.9% in females and 10.4% in nymphs. The larvae examined showed no presence of B. burgdorferi s.l. The mean infection rate of the vector of Lyme disease in the collection area of the highest altitude in this study - and the highest reported in Europe (Gaberl, 1350 m a.s.l.) was 6.4%: 1/9 males, 2/18 females, and 6/114 (5.3%) nymphs were positive. Culture attempts were positive in 12 cases and species identification showed eight isolates of Borrelia afzelii and four of Borrelia garinii. Three additional positive results found by PCR method (negative by dark field microscopy) were identified twice as B. afzelii and once as B. garinii. This study showed that the risk of acquiring of Lyme disease in habitats at higher altitudes is limited due to a lower density of I. ricinus and lesser infection rate of ticks than at lower altitudes in Central Europe, nevertheless it does exist.

STÜNZNER D., HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., POSTIC D, PIERER K., MARTH E., 1998: Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. in *Ixodes ricinus* ticks from Styria (Austria) and species identification by PCR-RFLP analysis. Zentralblatt für Bakteriologie 288: 471-478.

STÜNZNER D., HUBÁLEK Z., HALOUZKA J., WENDELIN I., SIXL W., MARTH E., 2006. Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato in the tick *Ixodes ricinus* in the Styrian mountains of Austria. Wiener klinische Wochenschrift: the Middle European Journal of Medicine 118: 682–685.



I. Rudolf preparing samples for PCR procedure. (Photo by J. Halouzka)

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Ludmila R O U S K O V Á
Mgr. Monika Š U G E R K O V Á
Lucie V L Č K O V Á

Research priorities

The studies are performed on both laboratory and natural populations. Empirical data from observations and experiments supplemented by simulation modelling are used to investigate important questions of evolutionary biology, such as (model organisms given in parentheses):

- hybrid zones as barriers against gene flow and their role in speciation (Mus, Sorex, Triturus)
- study of factors affecting population structure (fish, bats and mammals)
- links between life history traits, adaptive genetic variation and population dynamics in small mammals (voles)
- phylogeography and reconstruction of historical colonization (Mustela, Clethrionomys, Microtus)
- analysis of reproductive success by using DNA markers (paternity analyses in fish, birds and mammals)
- conservation genetics of endangered vertebrate species (*Lutra*, *Rupicapra*); development of non-invasive techniques of DNA sampling
- mechanisms and evolution of thermal physiology traits in ectotherms (*Triturus*)
- functional approaches in studying morphological adaptations (*Zootoca*, *Triturus*)

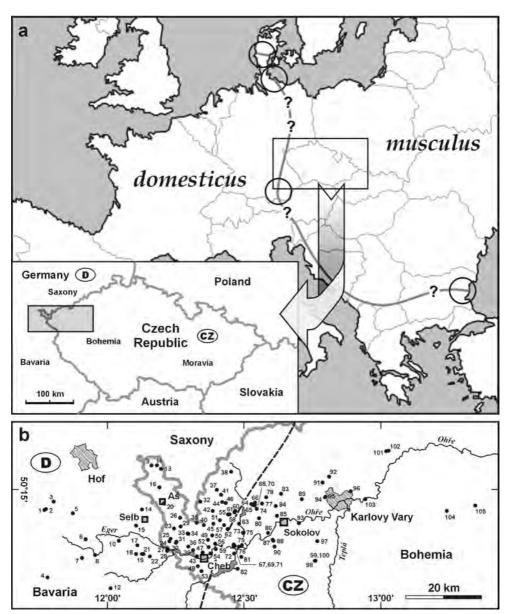
The results of these investigations are used in preparing recommendations for nature conservation, rodent pest control, lecturing at universities in Brno, České Budějovice, Prague, and Olomouc.

Selected research results

Behavioural and genetic study of speciation in a hybrid zone in the house mouse, Mus musculus

Two house mouse subspecies, *Mus m. musculus* and *M. m. domesticus*, form a long and narrow hybrid zone (HZ) running in Europe from Denmark to the Black Sea. Despite long-term interest in the study of this contact zone we have still a limited information about proximate mechanisms maintaining the HZ and thereby keeping the parental taxa in parapatry. To solve this question, we conducted a study of another part of the mouse HZ within the last 10 years. Based on maximum-likelihood analysis of more than 1500 mice from 105 localities we characterized the Czech-Bavarian transect across the HZ [1]. While most of molecular markers show similar transition in terms of frequencies from one taxon to another we found that one marker located on mitochondrial DNA is shifted from the centre and this shift is random when two transects are compared [2]. To determine factors keeping the two mouse

taxa apart and preventing intermixing of their genomes, we transported some mice to the laboratory and studied fitness components of parental and hybrid individuals. Behavioural studies focusing on assortative mating indicate that salivary signals (androgen-binding protein) most probably participate on subspecies specific recognition but in themselves are not efficient



(A) The course of the *musculus/domesticus* hybrid zone in Europe. Circles indicate previously studied transects in Denmark, Germany and Bulgaria. In the insert, the position of the Czech study area is indicated. (B) Location of 105 sampling sites. The thick dashed line is an approximate zone center defined as a 0.5-isocline derived from the bicubic spline smoothing of allele frequencies at each site.

enough to noticeably impede gene flow [3]. Hybrid male sterility is among presumed factors which can prevent gene flow between diverging subpopulations and in a pivot study we showed that genes causing spermatogenetic breakdown are polymorphic and widespread in wild M. m. musculus [4].

- MACHOLÁN M., MUNCLINGER P., ŠUGERKOVÁ M., DUFKOVÁ P., BÍMOVÁ B., BOŽÍKOVÁ E., ZIMA J., PIÁLEK, J., in press: Genetic analysis of autosomal and X-linked markers across a mouse hybrid zone. Evolution. doi: 10.1111/j.1558-5646.2007.00065.x
- BOŽÍKOVÁ E., MUNCLINGER P., TEETER C., TUCKER P.C., MACHOLÁN M., PIÁLEK J., 2005. Mitochondrial DNA in the hybrid zone between Mus musculus musculus and Mus musculus domesticus: a comparison of two transects. Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 363-378.
- 3. BÍMOVÁ B., KARN R.C., PIÁLEK J., 2005. The role of salivary androgen-binding protein in reproductive isolation between two subspecies of house mouse: *Mus musculus musculus and Mus musculus domesticus*. Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 349-361.
- 4. VYSKOČILOVÁ M., TRACHTULEC Z., FOREJT J., PIÁLEK J., 2005: Does geography matter in the hybrid sterility in house mice? Biological Journal of the Linnnean Society 84: 663-674.

Non-invasive genetic sampling

Genetic studies of elusive or endangered species are often constrained by difficulties in obtaining sufficient number of samples. We optimised the method and increased the success rate of otter (*Lutra lutra*) faeces genotyping using microsatellite and SRY markers. The optimised method was used to estimate population size and structure of free-ranging otters in two different habitats without any contact or disturbance of animals. Complete reliable genotypes were obtained from 60% of samples. Together with tissues from otter carcasses (mostly road-kills), faecal samples were used to study genetic variability, structure and demographic history of otter populations in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Throughout analyses, strict recommendations to avoid contamination and genotyping errors were followed.

In another study, we successfully applied non-invasive approach on PCR-based test for species identification of two cryptic bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. DNA analysis of droppings obtained during trapping or other handling of individuals can substitute the punching of wing-membranes. The results can be potentially obtained even without contact with animals, e.g., using fresh droppings from day roosts.

Another valuable source of samples for molecular genetic studies is museum collections. We have been able to perform a comprehensive phylogeographic research of a stoat (*Mustela erminea*) using mitochondrial DNA sequences from DNA isolated from museum skin collections. We took particular care to ensure authenticity of sequences from the museum samples using methods derived from laboratory protocols for handling ancient DNA.

- HÁJKOVÁ P., PERTOLDI C., ZEMANOVÁ B., ROCHE K., HÁJEK B., BRYJA J., ZIMA J., 2007: Genetic structure and evidence for recent population decline in Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) populations in the Czech and Slovak Republics: implications for conservation. Journal of Zoology 272: 1-9.
- HÁJKOVÁ P., ZEMANOVÁ B., BRYJA J., HÁJEK B., ROCHE K., TKADLEC E., ZIMA J., 2006: Factors affecting success of PCR amplification of microsatellite loci from otter faeces. Molecular Ecology Notes 6: 559–562.
- KANUCH P., HAJKOVA P., REHAK Z., BRYJA J., in press: A rapid PCR-based test for species identification of two cryptic bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* and its application on museum and dropping samples. Acta Chiropterologica.
- MARTÍNKOVÁ N., SEARLE J.B., 2006: Amplification success rate of DNA from museum skin collections: a case study of stoats from 18 museums. Molecular Ecology Notes 6: 1014-1017.

Applications of research results

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic

In May of 1999 the UN Development Programme and the Global Environmental Facility announced a capacity development initiative that was intended to support effective implementation of international agreements adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, concerned with improving the state of the environment on the Earth. On the basis of this Initiative, a National Capacity Self-Assessment project was commenced to perform thorough analysis of conditions in implementing the three international agreements, adopted at the UN Global Conference on the Environment and Development, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The analysis is intended to lead to identification of capacity constraints for meeting the obligations of states following from these agreements and to the preparation of an action plan to improve the situation. Thus, this assessment is intended to evaluate the state of preparation of the Czech Republic for implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. An evaluation is made of the level of strategic planning and proposal of individual steps and prospects, and problems are sought that can be identified as being critical from the standpoint of achieving the intermediate and final targets. In order to provide for the intentions formulated in the Convention, it is above all necessary to create and develop suitable capacities at the individual, institutional and systemic levels. This approach is fundamentally promoted in the assessment.

KIRSCHNER J., RÁB P., ROUDNÁ M., STAŇKOVÁ J., VILÍMOVÁ J., ZIMA J. (ed.), 2006: Biological diversity. Identification of priorities and capacity development for performance of obligations of the Czech Republic following from the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic / UNDP-GEF, Praha, 228 pp.



Threatened mammal species, Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*, can be studied using non-invasive genetic methods (Photo by J. Roleček).

The first gorilla born in the Czech Republic is a girl

The first offspring of the western lowland gorilla in the Czech Republic was born at the Prague ZOO in December 2004. This birth received great publicity and has been popularized in various TV and radio-broadcasting programmes. However, the gender of the young remained enigmatic. Two independent laboratories performed genetic studies aimed to sex identification of the individual but their results appeared contradictory.

The Institute was then asked by the authorities of the Prague ZOO to make additional investigations. The suitability of the genetic sex identification was tested by using blood samples of adult gorillas of known sex. Duplex PCR was conducted to amplify parts of the *Sry* gene (occurring only in males), whereas the *Zfy-Zfx* gene (amplified in both sexes) was used as a positive control of a PCR reaction. Then we used fresh samples of faeces for DNA extraction and amplification in the young and its father. The results showed unequivocally that the young named Moja is a female.



Moja, young female western lowland gorilla at the Prague ZOO. (Photo by T. Mrhálková)

International cooperation

Historical and contemporary selection on major histocompatibility complex genes in cyclic rodents

Host-pathogen interactions are of particular interest in the understanding of the interplay between population dynamics and natural selection. The genes of major histocompatibility complex (MHC) of demographically fluctuating species are very suitable markers for this purpose because they are involved in the initiation of the immune response against pathogens

and they exhibit high levels of genetic variation that are proposed to be adaptive in natural vertebrate populations. We optimised single strand conformation polymorphism analysis method using capillary electrophoresis to study polymorphism of DNA sequences in large scale population studies [1] and applied this method to analyse the variation of two MHC Class II genes (DQA1, DRB) during the demographic cycle of the water vole Arvicola terrestris. Positive historical selection was found to act very intensively on antigen-binding sites of MHC molecules in arvicolid rodents as documented by extensive trans-species polymorphism within the subfamily. For the first time within rodents, we documented the duplication of the DQA gene in three vole species with both copies being transcriptionally active [2]. We compared neutral genetic structure of seven populations (estimated from 14 microsatellites) with that estimated from MHC genes and we evidenced more intense selection on the gene DQA1 than on DRB or neutral markers and this pattern emphasized with increasing population abundance. In the year of low abundance, when populations were geographically isolated, overall differentiation patterns of both MHC genes were more pronounced than at neutral markers suggesting the action of local selection in fragmented populations. With increasing effective migration between sites the differences between MHC and neutral markers progressively vanished and in the high-abundance year, overall differentiation for DQA1 gene became even significantly lower than those of neutral markers, suggesting more homogenisation for that gene than what could be observed by chance for a neutral gene evolving under drift and migration only. Spatial and temporal fluctuations in parasite pressure are proposed as the most plausible mechanism inducing observed changes in contemporary selection pattern during demographic cycle [3].

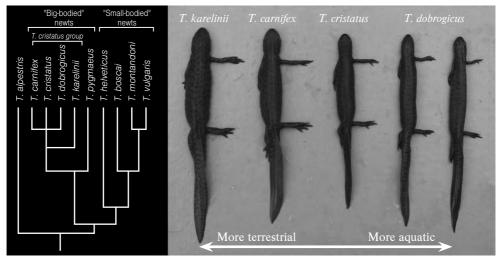
- BRYJA J., GALAN M., CHARBONNEL N., COSSON J.-F., 2005: Analysis of major histocompatibility complex class II gene in water voles using capillary electrophoresis-single stranded conformation polymorphism. Molecular Ecology Notes 5: 173-176.
- BRYJA J., GALAN M., CHARBONNEL N., COSSON J.-F., 2006: Duplication, balancing selection and transspecies evolution explain the high levels of polymorphism of the DQA MHC class II gene in voles (Arvicolinae). Immunogenetics 58: 191–202.
- BRYJA J., CHARBONNEL N., BERTHIER K., GALAN M., COSSON J.-F., submitted: Density-related changes
 in selection pattern on major histocompatibility complex genes in fluctuating populations of voles. Molecular
 Ecology.

Evolution of form and function in newts

Conflicts between structural requirements for carrying out different ecologically relevant functions may result in a compromise phenotype that maximizes neither function. Identifying and evaluating functional trade-offs may therefore aid in understanding the evolution of organismal performance. We examined the possibility of an evolutionary trade-off between aquatic and terrestrial locomotion in females of European species of the newt genus *Triturus*. Biomechanical models suggest a conflict between the requirements for aquatic and terrestrial locomotion. For instance, having an elongate, slender body, a large tail and reduced limbs should benefit undulatory swimming, but at the cost of reduced running capacity. To test the prediction of an evolutionary trade-off between swimming and running capacity, we investigated relationships between size-corrected morphology and maximum locomotor performance in females of ten species of newts. Phylogenetic comparative analyses revealed that an evolutionary trend of body elongation (increasing axilla-groin distance) is associated with a reduction in head width and forelimb length. Body elongation resulted in reduced maximum running speed, but, surprisingly, also led to a reduction in swimming speed. The

evolution of longer tails was associated with an increase in maximal swimming speed. We found no evidence for an evolutionary trade-off between aquatic and terrestrial locomotor performance, probably because of the unexpected negative effect of body elongation on swimming speed. We conclude that the idea of a design conflict between aquatic and terrestrial locomotion, mediated through antagonistic effects of body elongation, does not apply to our model system.

GVOŽDÍK L., VAN DAMME R., 2006: Triturus newts defy the running-swimming dilemma. Evolution 60: 2110-2121.



Species of the *Triturus cristatus* group showing the most prominent trend in body elongation and limb reduction within the (*Triturus*) clade.

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Research Priorities

The research of fishes is performed at various levels of spatial and biological organization (individual, population, and community), in relation to distribution, biology, ecology, and diversity. The study reflects the heterogeneity of aquatic environment, both in term of habitats and microhabitats, and the biodiversity between and within species. Fishes are considered to be complex bioindicators of degradation as well as regeneration of aquatic habitats. Accordingly, a number of activities are aimed at restoring and revitalisation of aquatic ecosystems.

Main research topics:

- diversity of fish communities and population parameters of key species in various types of aquatic habitats
- genetic diversity of fish populations
- rehabilitation of aquatic habitats and ecosystems for the restoration and conservation of fish biodiversity
- biology and conservation management of threatened species
- alien invasive species and their impact on native fish biodiversity

Selected research results

Growth characteristics of the barbel, Barbus barbus, in the middle course of the Jihlava River

Growth in length and weight, based on a combination of scale annulus interpretation and back-calculation using the Fraser-Lee model, was studied in male and female barbel, *Barbus barbus*, from a section of the Jihlava River sampled in 1999–2001. Results were compared with growth data obtained with similar methods in 1976, prior to construction and functioning of a hydropower scheme complex (Dukovany-Dalešice), and during the period of the scheme's partial operation (1980–1984). Recent growth rate, under seemingly fully-established environmental conditions and complete adaptation of the barbel population, showed the highest values, especially in males. A distinct sexual dimorphism in growth rate was also confirmed, with females growing faster than males, though to a lower extent than recorded both during previous periods and from several other localities. Further, upon comparison of back-calculated lengths for previous years of recently tagged-and-recaptured fish (1999–2001), with observed lengths directly measured at corresponding ages, no significant differences were overall found between the results obtained by either method in most age groups. Finally, the linear Fraser-Lee model proved a sufficiently accurate and practical method for back-calculating lengths for previous years of life also in barbel.

PROKEŠ M., ŠOVČÍK P., PEŇÁZ M., BARUŠ V., SPURNÝ P., VILIZZI L., 2006: Growth of barbel, *Barbus barbus*, in the River Jihlava following major habitat alteration and estimated by two methods. Folia Zoologica 55: 86-96.

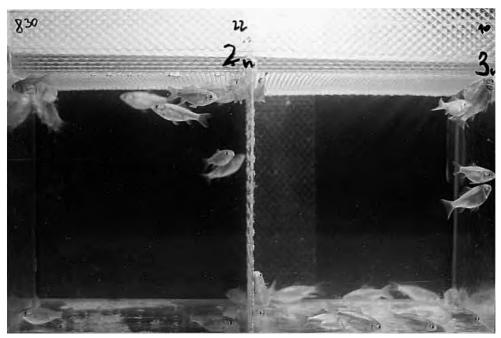


Ichtyological investigation on the Jihlava River. Left to right: J. I. Namin, V. Baruš, L. Vetešník, M. Prokeš. (Photo by M. Peňáz)

Physiological and behavioural differences between *Carassius auratus* lineages differing in ploidy levels and parental origin

In recent years, original uniform (unisexual-triploid) populations of silver crucian carp in central Europe transform dramatically. Previous state of sporadic diploid individuals' occurence (both males and females) has been gradually substituted by current state, where on some localities these diploids begin to dominate. Main goal of our experiments is to understand factors which affect this dynamics of diploid-polyploid complexes.

The reactions of the individuals *Carassius auratus* on temperature and low-oxygen stress were observed. The results show differences in dependence not only on the ploidy levels but also on their ancestry. It may be an important selective factor in specific natural conditions which affected occurence this groups in specific biotope. Haematological analysis was performed on 27 adult specimens of *Carassius auratus* irrespective of sex in 2003 and on 32 juveniles of distinguished sex in 2004. In this study we found that the ploidy level affected significantly (p < 0.01) the values of the erythrocyte count, mean corpuscular volume and mean corpuscular haemoglobin. Although we did not prove any significant effect of sex in juvenile diploids of *C. auratus* on the values of erythrocyte profile, the erythrocyte count, haematocrit value and haemoglobin content value were higher for males than for females. The erythrocyte count decreased significantly (p < 0.01) with increasing ploidy level. The index of haemoglobin content followed the same trend of a decreasing mean value with increasing ploidy level. Mean corpuscular volume and mean corpuscular haemoglobin increased with the increasing ploidy level (p < 0.01). Haematocrit value and mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration did not significantly differ from the point of view of the ploidy level.



Different depth preferences for swimming of diploid (left) and triploid (right) *Carassius auratus* in an aquarium. (Photo by K. Halačka)



Blood taking from Carassius auratus K. Halačka (left), L. Vetešník (right). Photo by S. Lusk.

HALAČKA K., VETEŠNÍK L., 2005: Vliv teplotního a kyslíkového stresu na karasa stříbřitého [Influence of temperature and oxygen stress on silver crucian carp (*Carassius auratus L.*)]. In: Spurný E. (ed.), 8. Česká ichtyologická konference. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno; 270–274.

VETEŠNÍK L., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., LUSK S., 2006: Erythrocyte profile of diploid and triploid silver crucian carp (*Carassius auratus*). Acta Veterinaria Brno 75: 203-207.

The nematode parasites of vertebrates: a potential sentinel species of heavy metal accumulation

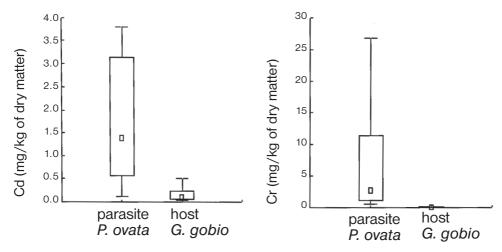
To assess the bioindicator value of parasites, the concentrations of six heavy metals (Cr, Cu, Pb, Cd, Ni and Zn) were analyzed by atomic absorption spectrometry in pregnant females of the nematode *Philometra ovata*, body cavity parasites of gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) and muscle samples of infected and uninfected hosts. The concentration of heavy metals was significantly higher in specimen of *P. ovata* compared to the host muscle tissue.

The parasite-to-muscle ratio of heavy metals varied from 3.2 to 121.7, in increasing concentrations for Cr, Cd, Cu, Pb, Ni and Zn. The presence of parasites did not influence the heavy metal content of the hosts, and no significant differences were found between muscle tissues of parasitized and non-parasitized fishes. The bioconcentration factor (BFs = $C_{parasite} / C_{sediment}$) varied between 0.4 and 25.8 and BFw ($C_{parasite} / C_{water}$) between 2133 and 25354. In conclusion the *P. ovata* – gudgeon parasite host system is an effective and practical bioindicator, even a sentinel system, of heavy metals load in aquatic ecosystems. Our results demonstrate that this parasite accumulates heavy metals at highes rates than the other nematode species (*Anguillicola crassus*, *Contracaecum rudolphii*, *Protospirura muricola*).

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BARUŠ V., TENORA F., ŠUMBERA R., 2003: Relative concentrations of four heavy metals in the parasites *Protospirura muricola* (Nematoda) and *Inermicapsifer arvicanthidis* (Cestoda) in their definitive host silvery mole-rat (*Heliophobius argenteocinereus*: Rodentia). Helminthologia 40: 227–232.

PALÍKOVÁ M., BARUŠ V., 2003: Mercury content in *Anguillicola crassus* (Nematoda) and its host *Anguilla anguilla*. Acta Veterinaria Brno 72: 289-294.



The concentration of heavy metals in a specimen of P. ovata and the host Gobio gobio muscle tissue.

Vimba vimba: a locally vanished and endangered species

In the past, *Vimba vimba* was among the key components of the fish assemblages inhabiting the middle and lower reaches of streams in the Czech Republic. Dam building, water pollution, fragmentation of the longitudinal continuum of most rivers in the course of the 20th century has resulted in the fact that at present the species is classified as Vulnerable. The degree of its threatening differs in various drainage areas. The species is comparatively abundant in some parts of the Labe and Vltava drainage area (the Berounka River, the lower reaches of the Labe River, the confluence of the Malše and Vltava rivers). Recently, *V. vimba* has vanished from the drainage area of the Odra River. In the Morava drainage area, it is rather numerous in the middle and lower reaches of the Bečva River. Residual populations exist in the Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir and in the lower reaches of the Jihlava River.

Investigations on the remnant *Vimba* population in the Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir, carried out in 1934, have shown that it can survive for 70 years at a low level of its genetic diversity. The numbers of the adult component of this population does not exceed one thousand individuals. In view of the low mean age of the population, with just two age groups being responsible for reproduction, it has been recommended to foster the population with material obtained by hand-stripping and rearing individuals from that population.

Besides, another important measure to improve the status of *Vimba vimba* populations could inhere in successively renewing the migration permeability of streams in their longitudinal profile. Like *Chondrostoma nasus, Vimba vimba* is among the fish species that perform long-range spawning migrations.

LUSK S., HANEL L., LUSKOVÁ V., LOJKÁSEK B., HARTVICH P., 2006: Červený seznam mihulí a ryb České republiky - Verze 2005 [The Red List of lampreys and fishes in the Czech Republic - Version 2005]. Biodiverzita ichtyofauny ČR (VI): 7-16.

LUSK S., LUSKOVÁ V., HALAČKA K., ŠLECHTOVÁ V., ŠLECHTA V., 2005: Characteristics of the remnant *Vimba vimba* population in the upper part of the Dyje River. Folia Zoologica 54: 389-404.



The Dyje River upstream of the Vranov Reservoir. (Photo by K.Halačka)

Characteristics of populations of the Zingel zingel and Zingel streber in the Czech Republic

Zingel zingel and Zingel streber are typical Danubian species occurring rarely in the Morava River drainage area within the Czech Republic. Due to weir constructions and especially due to increase of water pollution during the first half of the last century, they disappeared from our waters, and both species were assessed as critically endangered and protected by the national and European legislations. Only after improvements of the water quality in the Morava and Dyje Rivers, the new occurrence of Z. zingel was ascertained as early as in 1992, and that of Z. streber in 2003 in the area of the confluence of both rivers. A very numerous occurrence of young-of-the-year Z. streber specimens evidenced a successful reproduction.

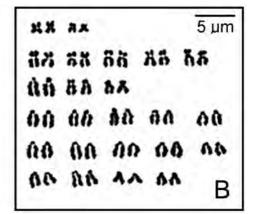
The restoration of both species was enabled by constant improvements of the water quality and by possibilities of free migrations from the Danube through the Slovakian-Austrian part of the Morava River. The stable occurrence of both species is constrained at present to short sections (Morava r.km 70-74.1 and Dyje 0.0-26.7).

The karyotype of *Z. zingel* was analyzed. The diploid chromosome number was 2n=48 for the female, and only 2n=47 for the male, but there was also present a single large unpaired metacentric chromosome. This indicated the presence of the X1X1X2X2/X1X2Y multiple sex chromosome system produced by the fusion of two sub- or acrocentrics chromosomes, one of them being the sex chromosome Y.



Zingel streber from the Morava River. (Photo by K. Halačka)

un nu	X
AA AA	88 88 88
44 44	**
10 44	66 66 44
00 00	00 00 00
AA AA	A A



The karyotype of Zingel zingel, A - male, B - female

HALAČKA K., VETEŠNÍK L., LUSK S., MENDEL J., PAPOUŠEK I., in press: The X1X1X2X2/X1X2Y multiple sex chromosome system in the *Zingel zingel* (Pisces: Perciformes) from the Morava River (Czech Republic). Caryologia.

LUSK S., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., VETEŠNÍK L., 2004: Re-occurrence of *Zingel streber* (Teleostei: Pisces) in the Czech Republic. Folia Zoologica 53: 417-422.

VETEŠNÍK L., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., LUSK S., 2004: Growth of Zingel streber and Zingel zingel and their distribution in the Czech Republic. VII. Česká ichtyologická konference, Vodňany: 74–77.

Applications of Research Results

Removing of migratory barriers fragmenting large rivers

A weir in Břeclav, river km 27, constitutes the first migratory barrier for water fauna on the lower Dyje River, which has free migratory route to the Danube River through 70 km long

Slovakian-Austrian stretch of the Morava River. At the end of 2005, a new fishpass was put into service within the frame of "Action plan of floodpass building on selected rivers of the Czech Republic". During 2006, we conducted a monitoring of its function performance. It was stated that both the entrance and interior bouldered migratory parts are fully functional for whole species and age spectrum of fish community. From the aspect of fish migration it is necessary to optimize the upper part including the exit part of the fishpass. Feasible modifications (such as enlargement of entry slots and adding of 2–3 rows of boulders in upper parts) should allow full migratory passability for the whole species range of the lower Dyje River ichthyofauna.

Floodgate Střekov constitutes the first migratory barrier on the Elbe River (river km 321) on the territory of the Czech Republic. In 2001, the new lowland pool fishpass was built there in connection with the project "Salmon 2000", allowing periodical monitoring of migrating fishes.

Significant numbers of juvenile (age 0+) and subadult (age 1+ and 2+) fish were observed migrating through a lowland pool fishpass from August to October in 2003 and 2004. Records of weekly catches totalled 2 148 (2003) and 6 469 (2004), mainly bleak, barbel, roach and dace. Fish migrated in the upstream direction probably to search the feeding grounds and refuges and their numbers corresponded to spring spawning migrations in the same fishpass and the year.

LUSK S., 2006: Zpráva o sledování a vyhodnocení funkčnosti rybího přechodu na jezu Břeclav v ř.km 26,7 řeky Dyje v průběhu roku 2006 [Report on monitoring and functionality of the fish pass on the weir Břeclav (river km 26.7 of the Dyje River) during 2006]. MS, Povodí Moravy SP, Brno, 22 pp.

PRCHALOVÁ M., VETEŠNÍK L., SLAVÍK O., 2006: Migrations of juvenile and subadult fish through a fishway during the late summer and fall. Folia Zoologica 55: 162-166.



Building of fish pass on the Dyje River in Břeclav. (Photo by K. Halačka)



The new lowland pool fishpass at Střekov. (Photo by K. Halačka)

Artificial wetlands - significant support for stable fish biodiversity in a river alluvium

The natural dynamics of water discharges and the ensuing fluvial stream activity resulted in a considerable diversification of aquatic environments in fluvial ecosystems. Besides the active streams in flooding area, there originated and developed a diversified system of aquatic habitats. This hydrological system offered conditions for fish assemblages showing a high species richness. However, the modifications of most streams as well as other human activities resulted in a limitation or complete elimination of any fluvial activity of the streams. Therefore, new habitats are no longer created by the natural activity of water discharges and fluvial activity. On the contrary, the habitats created by the streams in the past are now gradually vanishing. Now there are two alternatives as regards the future of these habitats: either the existing natural habitats can be maintained and renewed by human efforts, or new habitats can be provided in the form of artificial wetlands (earth pits, channels, artificial pools and lakes). Alluvial habitats are irreplaceable environments for several indigenous fish species protected by native as well as European legislation: Rhodeus amarus, Misgurnus fossilis, Cobitis elongatoides incl. hybrid populations, Umbra krameri and, of other species, Carassius carassius, Tinca tinca and Leucaspius delineatus. Also, artificial wetlands can provide more stable environments for the survival of fishes during critical periods. Artificial habitats, connected with the main stream or flooded during floods are populated by species inhabiting the major stream. The artificial aquatic habitats lying outside the active alluvium can be provided with fish assemblages aimed at conservation goals. The highly positive contribution of artificial habitats in stabilizing populations of the species mentioned above has been demonstrated in concrete objects in the floodplains of the rivers Morava, Dyje, Lužnice and, in eastern Slovakia, the drainage areas of the Bodrog, Latorica, Tisza and Ondava rivers.

- HALAČKA K., LUSK S., LUSKOVÁ V., 1998: Fish communities in artificial pools in the floodplain along the lower reaches of the River Dyje. Folia Zoologica 47: 125-134.
- HORÁK V., 2003: Rehabilitation of the lower Dyje River floodplain for fish. Ecohydrology & Hydrobiology 3: 121-126.
- HORÁK V., LUSK S., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., 2004: Artificial wetlands yes or no? Ecohydrology & Hydrobiology 4: 119-127.
- LUSK S., HALAČKA K., LUSKOVÁ V., 2003: Rehabilitating the floodplain of the lower River Dyje for fish. River Research and Applications 19: 281–288.
- LUSK S., KOŠČO J., LUSKOVÁ V., HORÁK V., KOŠUTH P., HALAČKA K., HARTVICH P., 2006: Význam umělých mokřadů v říčním aluviu pro podporu a uchování původní biodiverzity [Importance of artificial wetlands in floodpains for support and preservation of the native biodiversity]. Sborník Říční krajina 4, Olomouc: 165–171.





Two time stages of the artificial wetland in the Chomoutov Nature Reserve. (Photo by S. Lusk)

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Field laboratory in the town of Vidin, Bulgaria. Left to right: M. Vassilev, T. Trichkova, M. Ondračková, M. Polačik, K. Francová, M. Dušková. (Photo by J. Huml)

Research Priorities

We use fish to investigate questions in ecology and evolution as well as applied issues in fisheries management, conservation of aquatic habitats and floodplain restoration. Our field and experimental studies are conducted in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The current topics investigated in our department are:

- behavioural and evolutionary ecology of bitterling fish
- adaptation and coevolution of bitterling and their mussel hosts
- ecology, distribution and parasites of invasive *Neogobius* fishes
- 0+ juvenile fish community structure in lowland rivers and their flood plains
- optimisation of methods for 0+ juvenile fish sampling
- impacts of metazoan parasites on 0+ juvenile fish development
- community ecology of fishes in the Gambia River floodplain, Senegal, West Africa
- reproductive isolating mechanisms in the East African annual fishes *Nothobranchius* spp.

Selected Research Results

The coevolutionary relationship between bitterling fishes and freshwater mussels

Bitterlings (subfamily Acheilognathinae) are freshwater cyprinid fishes that have evolved an unusual spawning symbiosis with freshwater mussels from the family Unionidae. Female bitterling develop long ovipositors that they use to place their eggs deep inside the gill cavity of a mussel and males fertilise the eggs by releasing sperm into the inhalant siphon of the mussel. Bitterling embryos develop inside the mussel gill cavity for weeks and constrain mussel physiology. In turn, unionid mussels have parasitic larvae called glochidia. They are released into the water column, attach to fish gills or fins and obtain nourishment from the fish host. We found that relationship between bitterling and mussel, popularly considered mutualistic on the premise that bitterling use mussels as spawning sites while the mussel benefits by using bitterling to disperse their glochidia, is more complex.

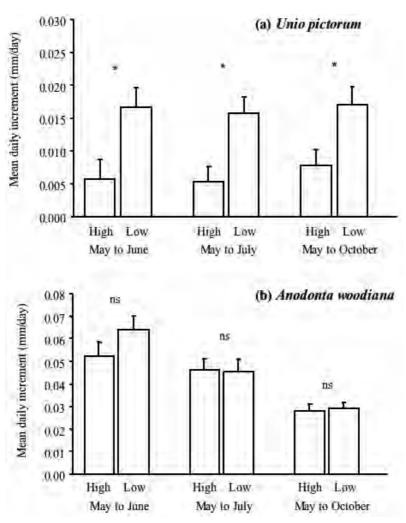
We investigated the costs and benefits from the symbiosis to both fish and mussels and found that in Europe, bitterling are parasites of mussels. European bitterling do not host glochidia, but adult European mussels suffer from a reduction in growth and fecundity if they carry bitterling embryos. In a further study, we found that this may be due to a lag in the coevolutionary relationship – bitterling presence in Europe is recent and mussels may have not had enough time to evolve sufficient adaptations. Indeed, in Asia, where bitterling origin is ancient, mussels are able to eject bitterling eggs and embryos prematurely, similarly to the eviction of cuckoo eggs by their bird foster parents. In a large scale comparative study in China, we discovered that the bitterling species vary in the level of their specificity to particular hosts and revealed a complex network of relationships between bitterling and mussel traits.

LIU H., ZHU Y., SMITH C., REICHARD M., 2006: Evidence of host specificity and congruence between phylogenies of bitterlings and freshwater mussels. Zoological Studies 45: 428-434.

REICHARD M., LIU H., SMITH C., 2007: The coevolutionary relationship between bitterling fishes and freshwater mussels: insights from interspecific comparisons. Evolutionary Ecology Research 9: 239–259.

REICHARD M., ONDRAČKOVÁ M., PRZYBYLSKI M., LIU H., SMITH C., 2006: The costs and benefits in an unusual symbiosis: experimental evidence that bitterling fish (*Rhodeus sericeus*) are parasites of unionid mussels in Europe. Journal of Evolutionary Biology 19: 788-796.

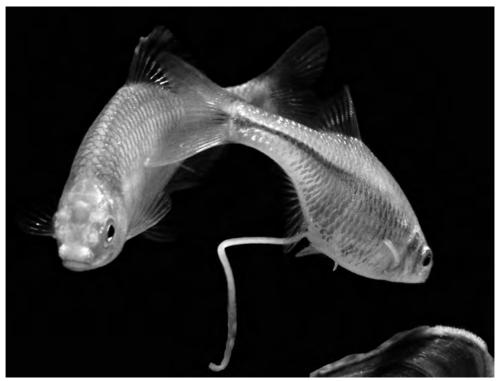
REICHARD M., PRZYBYLSKI M., KANIEWSKA P., LIU H., SMITH C., 2007: A possible evolutionary lag in the relationship between freshwater mussels and European bitterling. Journal of Fish Biology 70: 709-725.



Mean (+1 SE) daily shell growth of (a) *Unio pictorum* and (b) *Anodonta woodiana* mussels at high and low embryo density treatments calculated for the periods May to June (28 days), May to July (70 days), and May to October (131 days) 2004.

Sexual selection in the bitterling fish: the role of female choice and male mating tactics

Natural selection theory is based on the principle of unequal individual reproductive success within a species. This is caused by differential survival among individuals (ecological adaptations) and different number of offspring produced by individuals (sexual selection). Sexual selection explains the evolution of adaptations to maximise the individual reproductive potential, particularly adaptations to male-male interference competition for females and female choice. Using a series of experiments with a small cyprinid fish, the European bitterling, *Rhodeus sericeus*, we separated the two components of sexual selection and investigated their relative importance by estimating male reproductive success through paternity assignments. For individual males, the success in male-male competition for territories was significantly



A pair of European bitterlins before spawning. (Photo by C. Smith)

more important than female preference of a given male. Dominant males monopolised access to territories and sired considerably more offspring than males preferred by females. Therefore, the hierarchical rank of males reduced opportunities for female choice and females, despite being choosy, had limited control over the paternity of their offspring. In another set of experiments, we found that female bitterling may use sophisticated behaviour to prolong the spawning act and solicit sneaking fertilisations from subordinate males. This behaviour enables preferred, but subordinate, males to sire some offspring. Our data suggest new prospect in explaining the evolution of alternative male reproductive tactics, so far considered as a "parasitic" strategy undermining female choice.

Our results show that alternative male tactics may, contrary to the current view, augment rather than decrease the role of female choice. Given the important consequences of this finding on effective population size, our results have also general implications in the management of natural populations.

REICHARD M., BRYJA J., ONDRAČKOVÁ M., DÁVIDOVÁ M., KANIEWSKA P., SMITH C., 2005: Sexual selection for male dominance reduces opportunities for female mate choice in the European bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*). Molecular Ecology 14: 1533–1542.

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SMITH C., REICHARD M., DOUGLAS A., JURAJDA P., 2006: Population consequences of behaviour in the European bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*, Cyprinidae). Ecology of Freshwater Fishes 15: 137-145

Sampling methodology and monitoring of 0+ juvenile fish in channelized lowland rivers

Fish reproduction and use of nursery habitats by 0+ fish have been long-term monitored (1991-2006) in lowland channelized and regulated river Morava (r km 69.4-92.8). At twenty localities within the river stretch, 0+ juvenile fish assemblages are sampled in late summer by point abundance sampling (PAS) electrofishing.

PAS is widely used sampling strategy based on collecting numerous small (point) samples of the same size. This principle is considered to be more statistically robust than sampling low number of large samples. To evaluate its suitability for monitoring 0+ juvenile fish assemblages, we compared PAS with a strategy that surveys the given area in its whole length: a continuous sampling. Both strategies provided similar estimates of 0+ juvenile fish assemblages, in terms of species richness, species composition, relative proportion of the most abundant species and size structure. PAS proved to be the less time-demanding strategy (consuming approximately 60% of time compared to CS) allowing either surveying the fixed area quicker than CS or surveying longer area within fixed time interval. We therefore evaluated PAS as an appropriate strategy for sampling 0+ juvenile fish in lowland channelized rivers.

Though the lower part of the Morava River was modified for navigation, it is currently not used for this purpose. Therefore a variable water discharge is allowed to occur, which creates more habitat variability. The riprap bank is a uniform bank type occurring along the shoreline. Gently sloped sand-gravel beaches are formed along the inner bands of the river during low summer discharges. During periods of elevated discharge, the water level reaches the bank-side vegetation above the boulder bank. All these habitat types are, according to our results, suitable for, and to a large extent utilized by, the 0+ juvenile fish assemblage.

Mainly bitterling, chub, bleak, and gudgeon have adapted to the conditions following river modification and form abundant and stable populations. These species reproduce successfully and form a major part of the 0+ fish community. Specialist species (phytophils and most of lithophils) are disadvantaged, in term of their reproductive success.

JANÁČ M., JURAJDA P., in press: A comparison of point abundance and continuous sampling by electrofishing for age 0 fish in a channelized lowland river. North American Journal of Fisheries Management.

VALOVÁ Z., JURAJDA P., JANÁČ M., 2006: Spatial distribution of 0+ juvenile fish in differently modified lowland rivers. Folia Zoologica 55: 293-308.

Applications of Research Results

Water Framework Directive implementation

Since 1999, we have provided monitoring of young-of-the-year fishes in selected profiles of the river network that were included in the water quality assessment program in the Czech Republic (coordinated by Water Research Institute TGM Praha). In 2005, National Methodology for fish monitoring program within WFD implementation, based on international sources (FAME, CEN), has been completed and tested. During 2006, this methodology has been used in monitoring of 174 sites. The monitoring of young-of-the-year fish has been proven as a suitable methodology for WFD evaluation in the intensively stocked rivers in the Czech Republic.

JURAJDA P., SLAVÍK O., ADÁMEK Z., 2006: Sampling of young-of-the-year fishes in rivers. National Methodology of the Ministry of Environment CR. (in Czech) http://www.ochranavod.cz/dokumenty/RYB_tekouci%20vody.pdf

International Cooperation

Distribution, ecology and parasite fauna of zebrafish (Danio rerio) in Bangladesh

Zebrafish, *Danio rerio*, is a well established laboratory species in biomedical research. It has proven to be hugely influential in studies on gene expression of physiological, morphological and behavioural traits. There are surprisingly few data available on zebrafish natural behaviour and ecology. We have participated in an expedition that collected data on geographical distribution, habitat preferences, population structure and parasite load of wild zebrafish in Bangladesh. We found that zebrafish inhabits standing water bodies within the floodplain rather than river environment and that it is the most abundant in shallow lakes, ponds and ditches with rich vegetation at the margins. It is commonly abundant in water bodies with a connection to rice cultivation. We have identified parasite fauna of zebrafish based on a dissection of 120 individual zebrafish and eight additional fish species co-occurring with zebrafish. Our results suggest that there are large differences in parasite abundance and species richness among zebrafish populations from across Bangladesh which may be used in subsequent studies linking genetic background and susceptibility to parasitic diseases.

This project is based on the international cooperation with University of Leicester (United Kingdom), University of Khulna and University of Mymensingh (Bangladesh).

ONDRAČKOVÁ M., SPENCE R., SMITH C., 2006. Occurrence of metazoan parasites of zebrafish *Danio rerio* (Cyprinidae) in Bangladesh. In: Bryja J., Zukal J. (eds), Zoologické dny Brno 2006. Ústav biologie obratlovců AV ČR, Brno; 135.

SPENCE R., RUNA K.F., REICHARD M., HUQ K.A., WAHAB M.A., AHMED Z.F., SMITH C., 2006: The distribution and habitat preferences of the zebrafish in Bangladesh. Journal of Fish Biology. 69: 1435-1448.





Field research in Bangladesh. (Photos by M. Reichard and C. Pateman Jones, respectively)

Distribution, ecology and parasites of *Neogobius* fishes in their native and non-native area of distribution

Four Ponto-Caspian gobies of the genus *Neogobius* are regarded as invasive species because of their ability to rapidly establish abundant populations in the non-native areas, as was



Sampling in Bulgarian section of the Danube. (Photo by J. Huml)

documented in Europe and North America. In the non-native range, *Neogobius* spp. may affect local ecosystem directly e.g. by changing food web interactions, or indirectly by acting as a vector for non-native parasites. To explain the successful introductions of *Neogobius* spp. in the Danube River basin, we investigated their distribution, ecology and parasites in both native and non-native range (lower and middle Danube, respectively). We found that *N. melanostomus* and *N. kessleri* dominated in the non-native range whereas *N. fluviatilis* dominated in the native range. Our results of fish distribution support the hypothesis of disjunctive spreading since very low population densities of *N. gymnotrachelus* and especially *N. melanostomus* were registered in the Croatian section of Danube, i.e. in the middle between native and non-native abundant populations. *N. gymnotrachelus* was relatively rare in both examined Danube stretches. *N. kessleri* and *N. melanostomus* reached a bigger size in the non-native area and some differences between populations were found also in the diet.

Parasite fauna of native and non-native populations of *N. kessleri* and *N. melanostomus* showed slight differences in both parasite abundance and parasite species richness. Parasite community in riverine fish did not differ among populations especially in *N. kessleri*; on the other hand, in fish from side-arm system, a habitat untypical for this fish species, the parasite species richness was two times higher than in the river. Parasite fauna of *Neogobius* spp. comprises mainly common and abundant parasites in the particular site showing very low host – specificity. Ponto-Caspian gobies seem to be fish hosts very susceptible to various parasite species and their parasite community reflects the fish feeding strategy and habitat preference.

This project is based on the international cooperation with Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria), University of Osijek (Croatia) and University of Vienna (Austria).

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- ONDRAČKOVÁ M., TRICHKOVA T., JURAJDA P., 2006: Present and historical occurrence of metazoan parasites in *Neogobius kessleri* (Pisces: Gobiidae) in the Bulgarian Section of the Danube River. Acta Zoologica Bulgarica 58: 401-408.



Racer goby Neogobius gymnotrachelus. (Photo by P. Jurajda)

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Research priorities

Our research focuses on understanding the ecological and evolutionary basis of reproductive strategies. Important goals of this research are to identity the ecological factors that promote parasitic reproductive behaviour, predator avoidance and nest predation. We conduct studies adopting the adaptationist and optimality approach of behavioural ecology to examine fitness costs and benefits of various characters in bird populations. Further we aim at understanding the evolution and signalling function of secondary male ornaments in birds. Using genetic markers we study population differentiation and phylogeography of selected European passerines across migratory divides which are inferred from measurements of stable isotope ratios and ringing recoveries. Our current research also concentrates on patterns of singing activity in passerines and includes studies of parasites associated with birds of the Afrotropical and Neotropical Regions as well.

Selected research results

Extra-pair fertilizations and mechanisms of mate choice

Extra-pair fertilizations (EPF) are frequently documented in songbirds. A costs—benefits approach has frequently been used to understand the evolutionary origin and maintenance of promiscuity in this group. Recent meta-analyses suggest that direct costs to unfaithful females outweigh indirect benefits from infidelity in socially monogamous songbirds, what

indicates that in these taxa, EPF evolved primarily as a self-interest male tactic. We performed a comparative analysis to show that standardized selection gradients acting against female infidelity (direct costs of promiscuity) explain variation in EPF rates at an interspecific level in passerines. This result confirms that costs to females resulting from reduced parental care by cheated males constrain promiscuity in this group. Our data indicate that females exert resistance over EPF when the costs of infidelity are high and, conversely, that the rate of EPF increases when selection on females to defend themselves against EPF attempts by males is weak and costs of infidelity are low. Indirect (genetic) benefits to females should play a central role in choice of extra-pair mate, since female birds do apparently obtain only sperm from these mates. There are two basic models of mate choice in animals, with indicator model proposing an absolute criterion of mate choice such as sexual ornaments, and the other one proposing (dis)similarity between the female and male as the main mechanism. The latter is often called choice of 'genetic compatibility' in recent literature. However, the term 'genetic compatibility' has an existing meaning in speciation and we therefore propose use of the term 'genetic complementarity' over 'genetic compatibility'. This is in agreement with Trivers (1972) who was to our knowledge the first to clearly articulate the phenomenon of mating based on genetic dissimilarity.

ALBRECHT T., KREISINGER J., PIÁLEK J., 2006. The strength of direct selection against female promiscuity is associated with rates of extrapair fertilizations in socially monogamous passerines. American Naturalist 167: 739-744.

PIÁLEK J., ALBRECHT T., 2005. Choosing mates: compatible versus complementary genes. Trends in Ecology & Evolution 20: 63.

Coevolution between European hosts and their brood parasites

Successive adaptations and counteradaptations by avian brood parasites and their hosts provide some of the best examples of direct coevolution in nature. Successfully parasitized hosts often raise only the cuckoo young and have zero reproductive success. This creates conditions for coevolutionary arms race between hosts and parasites. We studied both adaptations of the hosts and counteradaptations of the parasites, respectively.

We tested experimentally responses of the hosts towards multiple cuckoo parasitism and suggest that when the parasitism rate reaches high levels, e.g. at the beginning of the coevolutionary arms race, defense against multiple parasitism may be an important component of host's adaptation to brood parasitism in general. Other major adaptations are those related to the parasitic egg. We evaluated the puncture resistance hypothesis for the occurrence of thick-shelled eggs in common cuckoo by investigating costs of cuckoo egg ejection in four *Acrocephalus* warblers. Last but not least, we tested great reed warbler discrimination against two cuckoo morphs in two areas with different parasitism rates and proportions of the two morphs. Our results suggest that both local parasitism pressure and relative abundance of the two colour morphs of a brood parasite may significantly influence host defences. Finally, we studied laying strategy of cuckoo that is well-synchronized with that of the host. This matching of laying patterns with those of the hosts suggests an adaptive response to ensure optimal hatchability of the cuckoo eggs and to avoid multiple parasitism of the same nest even under heavy pressures of brood parasitism.

ANTONOV, A., STOKKE, B. G., MOKSNES, A., HONZA, M., 2006: Eggshell strength of an obligate brood parasite: a test of the puncture resistance hypothesis. Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology 60: 11-18

HONZA M., MOSKÁT C., 2005: Antiparasite behaviour in response to experimental brood parasitism in the great reed warbler: a comparison of single and multiple parasitism. Annales Zoologici Fennici 42: 627-633.

HONZA M., ŠICHA V., PROCHÁZKA P., LEŽALOVÁ R., 2006: Host nest defense against a color-dimorphic brood parasite: great reed warblers (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) versus common cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus*). Journal of Ornithology 147: 629-637.

MOSKÁT C., BARTA Z., HAUBER M.E., HONZA M., 2006: High synchrony of egg laying in common cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* and their great reed warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* hosts. Ethology, Ecology and Evolution 18: 159–167.

Savi's warbler: A model species for studying the patterns of singing activity

Males of many bird species spend enormous amounts of time singing, which may amount to several hundred thousand songs per season. They sing in order to acquire a mate and to defend a territory and its resources or to minimize the risk of cuckoldry by neighbouring males and to maximize the probability of their own successful extrapair copulations. Diel patterns of singing vary among bird species in aspects such as the timing of peaks through the day or night and throughout the season.

We studied seasonal and diel patterns of singing activity of Savi's warblers *Locustella luscinioides* in two areas of Central Europe 300 km apart, over a period of 18 years. We assess about 4,600 records of individuals singing. Males were found to exhibit similar singing activity in both study sites. They started to sing after arrival at the beginning of April and peaked from the end of April to the beginning of May. Thereafter, their singing activity was lower but more



A male Savi's warbler singing. (Photo by L. Hlásek)

stable for a relatively long period from mid-May to mid-July. At the end of July, males sang only sporadically and singing activity ceased at the beginning of August. At the beginning and towards the end of the song-period males sang sporadically whereas in the period of the highest singing activity they sang over the entire 24-h period. During the whole song-period, there was a significant difference in singing activity between daylight and the dark (67.2 and 32.8%, respectively). However, the period of daylight was longer. Average singing activity showed similar levels in daylight and the dark with mean numbers of 5.9 and 6.6 males per hour, respectively. Major changes in singing activity were related to the twilight periods. There were distinctive dawn and dusk choruses. In the morning, Savi's warblers exhibited similar levels of singing activity over 3 h of the dark before twilight, singing reached its highest level at twilight and 1 h after twilight. During the evening, singing activity reached its highest-level 1 h before twilight, while during twilight it was decreasing, with a considerable decline 1 h after nightfall.

KLOUBEC B., ČAPEK, M., 2005: Seasonal and diel budgets of song: a study of Savi's warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). Journal of Ornithology 146: 206-214.

International cooperation

Coevolution between an African brood parasite and its hosts

The red-chested cuckoo parasitizes many passerines in Africa, but some common species sympatric with the brood parasite are rarely used as hosts. Since very little is known about



M. Honza and M. I. Cherry at the field station in the Ndumo Game Reserve, South Africa. (Archives of the Ndumo Game Reserve)

brood parasitism on this continent, we experimentally tested responses of three turdid hosts to parasitism with artificial cuckoo egg. Our results support the hypothesis that rejection behaviour in two species (olive thrush, Kurrichane thrush) evolved as defence against interspecific parasitism, with thrushes appearing to be ahead in the host-parasite arms-race. The Cape robin, by contrast, appears not to reject cuckoo eggs, either because it is unable to recognize them, or because the cost associated with removal may be too high.

This study was made in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch (Matieland, South Africa) and it was supported by a John Ellerman Fellowship.

HONZA M., KUIPER S.M., CHERRY M.I., 2005. Behaviour of African turdid hosts towards experimental parasitism with artificial red-chested cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*. Journal of Avian Biology 36: 517–522.

Parasites associated with birds native to rainforests on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica

We undertook our research of ectoparasites on birds of the Cordillera de Talamanca mountain range in Limón province, southeastern Costa Rica. In the rainy season of 2004 (August through September), we sequentially studied birds at two locations (Hitoy Cerere Biological Reserve and Barbilla National Park) on the Caribbean slope differing in elevation and habitat character. A total of 530 individuals of 79 bird species were examined. In this contribution we focus on chewing lice (Phthiraptera) and mites (Acari: Macronyssidae) associated with hummingbirds (Trochilidae), typical antbirds (Thamnophilidae), ground antbirds (Formicariidae), manakins (Pipridae) and grosbeaks (Cardinalidae) inhabiting lowland tropical rainforests.



M. Čapek examining a long-tailed hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus* in the laboratory of Hitoy Cerere Biological Reserve, Costa Rica, August 19, 2004. (Photo by M. Havlíček)

We found five chewing lice species belonging to the genera Formicaphagus, Machaerilaemus and Myrsidea of which three are the species new to science. They and their type hosts are as follows: Formicaphagus tyrannina ex Cercomacra tyrannina (Thamnophilidae), Myrsidea mcleannani ex Phaenostictus mcleannani (Thamnophilidae) and Myrsidea klimesi ex Formicarius analis (Formicariidae). These are the first records of Myrsidea from members of the passerine families Thamnophilidae and Formicariidae. Mites were represented by three species of the genus Pellonyssus of which P. cyanoides from Cyanocopsa cyanoides is the species new to science.

Scientists from the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno, the Institute of Vertebrate Biology AS CR in Brno, the Institute of Parasitology AS CR in České Budějovice (Czech Republic) and the University of Queensland in Brisbane (Australia) collaborated on the work. We are grateful to the Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía de Costa Rica for permission to conduct our study.

DUSBÁBEK F., LITERÁK I., ČAPEK M., HAVLÍČEK M., 2006: Three species of the genus *Pellonyssus* (Acari: Macronyssidae) including a new species from Costa Rican birds. International Journal of Acarology 32: 175-178.

SYCHRA O., LITERÁK I., ČAPEK M., HAVLÍČEK M., 2006: Chewing lice (Phthiraptera) from typical antbirds and ground antbirds (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae, Formicariidae) from Costa Rica, with descriptions of three new species of the genera *Formicaphagus* and *Myrsidea*. Zootaxa 1206: 47-61.

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Research priorities

Research is focused on the ecology of selected mammalian groups. The results of investigations are aimed to improve management of forest stands, game management, rodent pest control, and protection of biodiversity.

Main research topics:

- feeding ecology of large herbivores and their impact on vegetation
- · foraging ecology and anti-predator strategies of bats

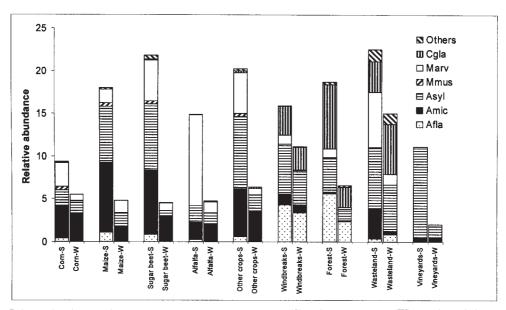
- ecology and behaviour of large carnivores, and foraging ecology and distribution of mustelids
- synecology of small terrestrial mammals
- diversity and ecology of small mammals and ungulates of West Africa

Selected research results

Structure and diversity of small mammal communities in agriculture landscape

Result of six year trappings (51,480 trap/nights, total catch 5,536 small terrestrial mammals) in various field crops and other habitats in a poorly wooded agricultural landscape of southern Moravia (Czech Republic) were presented. Fourteen small mammal species were captured; the relative population density and dominance of each species in each crop and other habitats were evaluated. According to Renkonen's index of similarity small mammal communities could be divided into two main groups: the first comprised windbreaks, small woods and fallow land with high dominance of species with affinity to forest environment; the other group is formed by open habitat communities. These were again divided into two groups: perennial crop group (as alfalfa) and one-year crop group (as corn, sugar beet, maize, and other crops). In the first group with forest affinity a higher diversity of small mammal community compared to second, open habitat one has been found. Changes of diversity index values according to the agrotechnical changes were also evaluated.

HEROLDOVÁ M., BRYJA J., ZEJDA J., TKADLEC E., 2007: Structure and diversity of small mammal communities in agriculture landscape. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 120: 206–210.

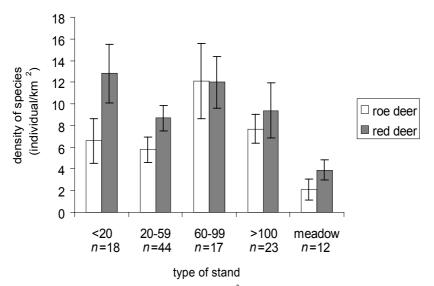


Relative abundance and community structure in spring+summer (S) and autumn+winter (W) samples in habitats studied. Cgla - Clethrionomys glareolus, Marv - Microtus arvalis, Mmus - Mus musculus, Asyl - Apodemus sylvaticus, Amic - A. microps, Afa - A. flavicollis.

Density and distribution of deer in a floodplain forest

Data on the density and distribution of deer help to protect artificial plantations and naturally regenerating stands against browsing damage, to select suitable additional feeding places and to assist in rational game management. Habitat selection by deer is best viewed as a trade-off between selection of cover and selection of food. High primary production, high biodiversity of the floodplain forest ecosystem and agricultural fields situated along the forest offer very specific conditions, which can significantly influence habitat selection of deer species living there. We analysed density and distribution of red deer and roe deer in relation to habitat structure and distribution of food sources during winters 2001–2004 in a floodplain forest along the Morava River. Densities of both species were relatively high (red and roe deer, 9.6 and 7.0 ind./km² respectively). Red deer preferred forest stands with dense cover (60–80 %) and a diversified shrub layer (more than three tree species). Roe deer mainly used old stands of age 50–99 years with a high cover of canopy layer and conversely low cover of herb layer, dominated by bramble. A positive relationship between the distributions of both species was detected. Inter-specific spatial interference was not observed, despite their high densities in the study area.

PROKEŠOVÁ J., BARANČEKOVÁ M., HOMOLKA M., 2006: Density of red deer and roe deer and their distribution in relation to different habitat characteristics in a floodplain forest. Folia Zoologica 55: 1-14.



Average values of the roe and red deer density (individual/km2) in forest stands of different age and in meadows.

Flight activity of bats during non-hibernation period

We studied the flight activity of bats under three different conditions: a) emergence and return activity of bats in maternity colonies [1], b) foraging activity of bats [2 and 3], and c) flight activity in the entrance of natural karstic cave [4].

Parameters of return activity generally occurred at lower light intensities than those of emergence at six maternity colonies of pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) in NE Scotland. Therefore, the interval between dawn return and sunrise was generally longer



Křivé Lake (floodplain forest) where the highest bat flight activity was recorded. (Photo by Z. Řehák)

than that between sunset and dusk emergence. Emergence and return were equal in duration. Bats clustered more on emergence in comparison with return during pregnancy and lactation, whereas during postlactation this trend was reversed [1].

The foraging activity of bats was studied in karstic area and various natural forests. Bat detectors were used to record echolocation calls of bats on line transects during the first half of the night. *Myotis daubentonii* was the most numerous species. The number of bat species was the highest in rocky habitats, and the lowest in agrocoenoses. The greatest intensity of flight activity of the bat community was observed over ponds and streams [2]. Generally, the level of flight activity of bats detected in lowland forests was significantly higher compared to the activity in mountain forests. The highest activity was recorded in the floodplain forest. On the contrary, the mountain spruce forest was utilized by bats only scarcely. In lowland forests, the highest activity was registered in the pregnancy period and it gradually decreased towards the end of the season. In mountain forests, the level of activity was rather well-balanced throughout the season. In spite of that the lowest activity was obtained in pregnancy period. In all forest habitats, the flight activity was higher at the beginning of the night than before midnight [3].

Activity patterns of bats were recorded automatically with a double infrared light barrier at the entrance of Kateřinská cave (Czech Republic) too. Five periods were defined on the basis of bat flight activity. All periods showed a non-random temporal distribution and a concentration of flight activity around specific time. There was a positive correlation between the number of bat passes through the entrance and outside ambient temperature and a negative correlation between the number of passes and barometric pressure. Rain had no significant effect on the level of bat activity [4].

- 1. PETRŽELKOVÁ K.J., DOWNS N.C., ZUKAL J., RACEY P.A., 2006. A comparison between emergence and return activity in pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. Acta Chiropterologica 8: 381–390.
- ZUKAL J., ŘEHÁK Z., 2006. Flight activity and habitat preference of bats in a karstic area, as revealed by bat detectors. Folia Zoologica 55: 273-281.
- 3. SIMPROVÁ, P. 2006: Časové změny v letové aktivitě společenstva netopýrů v lesním prostředí [Temporal changes in flight activity of a bat community in forest habitat]. Bakalářská práce, PřF MU: 46 pp.
- BERKOVÁ H., ZUKAL J., 2006. Flight activity of bats at the entrance of a natural cave. Acta Chiropterologica 8: 187-195.

Applications of Research Results

Evaluation of game damage to the field crops

Field crops are extensively damaged by large herbivores in many localities of the Czech Republic. To judge the impact of herbivores on the yield of crop, plants at an early stage of development were experimentally clipped to simulate browsing varying in intensity. In some fields we evaluated the extent and economic effect of wild herbivore damage on main field crops. We also analysed and developed a new method for assessing the damage to crops. The manual elaborated features free living game which cause serious damage to field crops. Pictures of main types of damage to crops are also included.

In general, damage to leaves caused only a small reduction of the yield. Winter wheat or barley crops were not influenced by a considerable reduction of leaves. Only yield of sun flower and winter rape was significantly lower in defoliated plants. Crop damages at the later stages of plant development were more important. In fields connected to the forest edge 5–50% plants were damaged. Our method allows to make accurate estimates of the extent of damages. The study provides practical guidelines for state agencies, wildlife managers and farmers.



Wild boar rooting in a pasture. (Photo by J. Kamler)



Result of roe deer browsing on sunflower. (Photo by J. Kamler)

CERKAL R., DVOŘÁK J., KAMLER J., VEJRAŽKA K., 2006. Poškozování porostů ječmene býložravci [Game damages to barley]. In: Zimolka J. (ed.), Ječmen – formy a užitkové směry v České republice. Profi Press, Praha; 120–125.

DVOŘÁK J., HOMOLKA M., HEROLDOVÁ M., KAMLER J., CERKAL R., LUJC J., SKLÁDANKA J., DOLEŽAL P., 2006. Atlas poškození polních plodin - savci [Atlas of game damages to field crops]. Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita, Brno, 35 pp.

KAMLER J., HOMOLKA M., HEROLDOVÁ M., DVOŘÁK J., 2005. Volně žijící býložravci a polní plodiny [Free living ungulates and field crops]. Folia Venatoria 35: 205-210.

International Cooperation

Feeding behaviour, parasite infections and self-medicative abilities of an introduced chimpanzee population

The chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island results from an introduction of 17 individuals in the late 60ties and it is the only example of a viable, long-term self-sustaining released chimpanzee population with a minimum of human intervention at the time of release and afterwards. Our on-going research is aimed to study these chimpanzees as a model population adapted to a new environment from the aspects of feeding behaviour, self-medication, and parasite exchange among released chimpanzees and colobus monkeys (*Colobus guaraza*) and indigenous velvet monkeys (*Cercopithecus aethiops*). Obtained results will contribute to our understanding of chimpanzee behavioural and ecological flexibility and are supposed to help to increase the success of next releases.

We examined the relationship between fruit availability, dietary composition and grouping in the descendents of an introduced chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island. Tree fruit availability was positively correlated with rainfall, with a period of relative tree fruit scarcity corresponding with the long dry season. Liana fruit availability was not related to rainfall, and lianas exhibited more stable fruiting patterns across seasons. Fruits made up the majority of chimpanzee diet, with lianas accounting for 35% of dietary fruit species. Fruits of the liana Saba comorensis were available during all months of phenological monitoring, but they were consumed more when tree fruit was scarce, suggesting that S. comorensis fruits may be a fallback food for Rubondo chimpanzees. There were no increases in consumption of lower-quality plant parts between seasons, and there were no changes in nesting group size between seasons. These results contrast with evidence from several endemic chimpanzee study sites, and indicate that Rubondo chimpanzees may experience fewer ecological constraints on dietary quality and grouping patterns.

We identified three nematode species not previously reported in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) introduced on Rubondo Island, Tanzania: *Protospirura muricola*, *Subulura* sp., and *Anatrichosoma* sp. The chimpanzee pinworm, *Enterobius anthropopitheci* was redescribed based on light and scanning electron microscopy of both sexes collected from the feces of Rubondo chimpanzees.

HASEGAWA H, IKEDA Y, FUJISAKI A, MOSCOVICE L.R, PETRZELKOVA K.J., KAUR T, HUFFMAN M.A., 2005: Morphology of chimpanzee pinworms, *Enterobius (Enterobius) anthropopitheci* (Gedoelst, 1916) (Nematoda: Oxyuridae), collected from chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*, on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. Journal of Parasitology 91: 1314–1317.

MOSCOVICE L. R., ISSA M.H., PETRZELKOVA K.J., KEULER N.S., SNOWDON C.T., HUFFMAN M.A., 2007: Fruit availability, chimpanzee diet and grouping patterns on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. American Journal of Primatology 69: 1–16.

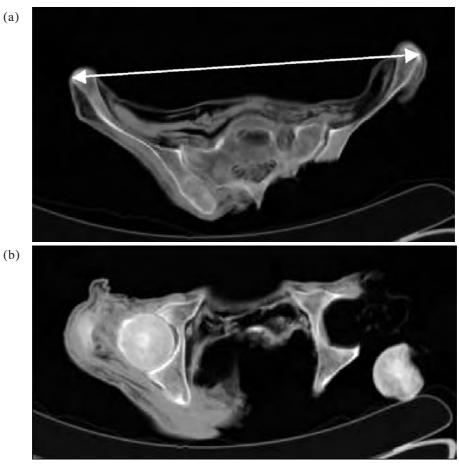
PETRZELKOVA K.J., HASEGAWA H., MOSCOVICE L.R., KAUR T, ISSA M., HUFFMAN M.A., 2006: Parasitic nematodes in the chimpanzee population on Rubondo Island, Tanzania. International Journal of Primatology 27:767–777.



Mother and baby chimpanzee. (Photo by K. J. Petrželková)

Body proportion and bone biomechanics of the Tyrolean "Iceman" (Ötzi)

Body mass and structural properties of the femoral and tibial midshafts of the "Iceman" (Ötzi), a late Neolithic (5200 BP) mummy found in the Tyrolean Alps, are determined from computed tomographic scans of his body, and compared with those of a sample of 139 males spanning the European Early Upper Paleolithic through Bronze Age. Two methods, based on femoral head breadth and estimated stature and bi-iliac (pelvic) breath, yield identical body mass estimates of 61 kg for the Iceman. In combination with his estimated stature of 158 cm, this indicates a short but relatively wide, or stocky body compared to our total sample. His femur is about average in strength for Neolithic males, but his tibia is well above average. His femur also shows adaptations for his relatively broad body (mediolateral strengthening), while his tibia shows adaptations for high mobility over rough terrain (anteroposterior strengthening). In many respects his tibia more closely resembles those of European Mesolithic rather than Neolithic males, which may reflect a more mobile lifestyle than was characteristic of most Neolithic males, perhaps related to a pastoral subsistence strategy. There are indications that mobility in



Transverse CT scans through pelvic region (a) and CT scans of femoral heads used for body size estimate (b) (Iceman, 5200 B.P.). Left femur is postmortem dislocated from acetabulum.

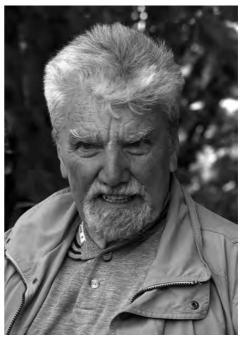
general declined between the European Mesolithic and Neolithic, and that body size and shape may have become more variable throughout the continent following the Upper Paleolithic.

The research was leaded by Christopher Ruff (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) with cooperation from United States (Brigitte Holt, University Massachusetts; William A. Murphy, University of Texas), Czech Republic (Vladimír Sládek, Institute of Vertebrate Biology) and Austria (Margit Berner, Naturhistorisches Museum; Dieter zur Nedden, Wolfgang Recheis, University of Innsbruck; Horst Seidler, University of Vienna).

RUFF C., HOLT B., SLÁDEK V., BERNER M., MURPHY W.A., NEDDEN D., SEIDLER H., RECHEIS W., 2006: Body size, body proportions, and mobility in the Tyrolean "Iceman". Journal of Human Evolution 51: 91–101.

OBITUARY

Zdeněk Veselovský (1928–2006)



Zdeněk Veselovský at the Prague Zoo in the summer of 2006 (photo by A. Pospěch).

Professor Zdeněk Veselovský was a distinguished zoologist who was a source of great inspiration to generations of ornithologists, mammalogists, and behavioural biologists in the Czech Republic. He was born in Jaroměř on 26 August 1928 and died on 24 November 2006 in Prague.

Zdeněk Veselovský was a naturalist of very broad competence, and his skills for popularization of the animal world to wide public were particularly recognized and appreciated. He was the author of more than 100 research papers and he published 35 books and textbooks. He had worked for almost 30 years as the director of the Prague ZOO (1959–1988), and he was later appointed as the professor of zoology at universities in České Budějovice and Prague.

He was a research fellow of the Institute during a short period in 1992 and 1993. This employment, provided by the Academy of Sciences, was quite important for Zdeněk Veselovský, because it enabled him to continue his scientific career in uneasy times of his life.

Zdeněk Veselovský was a man with great enthusiasm, curiosity and love of nature. His deep knowledge and warm friendly personality will be greatly missed by many.

AWARDS

In 2004, Zdeněk Hubálek was awarded the Prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic for his studies on biology of West Nile virus, the agent of encephalitis in some vertebrates including humans. The results were published in 17 scientific papers and received a wide international response (the principal 1999 paper has been cited 224 times up to February 2007). Zdeněk Hubálek's long-term research concentrates on the ecology of arthropodborne viruses and bacteria pathogenic for vertebrates, such as arboviruses and Lyme disease borreliae, and his papers have been cited almost 1 400 times. He has been assessing potential role of free-living birds in dispersal of pathogenic bacteria and viruses and is involved in the EDEN project of the 6th Framework Programme (West Nile virus, tick-borne diseases). Z. Hubálek is a member of two expert commissions of WHO.



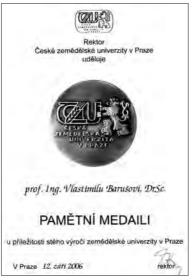
Zdeněk Hubálek (right) receives the 2004 Prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic from the former president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Helena Illnerová (left). Archives of the Press Department of the AS CR.

In 2005, Martin Reichard was awarded the Otto Wichterle Prize for his studies on general processes in population, behavioural and evolutionary biology. He uses fishes as a model group. His current research has concentrated on the evolution of reproductive strategies and mating systems, co-evolutionary dynamics and the effect of individual behaviour on population processes. He further investigates the ecology of early developmental stages of fish with a special attention to larval dispersal and the effects of biotic and abiotic factors on the success of natural reproduction. He is also involved in several projects on the ecology of tropical fishes in Senegal, Bangladesh, and China.



The Otto Wichterle Prize award ceremony 2005. Martin Reichard (left) receives the Otto Wichterle Prize for young scientists from the president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Václav Pačes (right). Photo by M. Hužvárová.

In 2006, the rector of Czech University of Agriculture in Prague awarded Vlastimil Baruš, director of the former Institute of Vertebrate Zoology and the Institute of Systematic and Ecological Biology CS AS, a commemorative medal which was struck in honour of the 100th anniversary of the university.



Commemorative medal of Czech University of Agriculture in Prague.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Institute's international collaboration is a very important part of its all research activities. Our scientists work in close collaboration and exchange their views with scholars from various institutions in many countries. Each department is involved in various forms of international co-operation and we have recently been participating in 20 international projects including six projects within the EU Sixth Framework Programme. We have been deriving much benefit from established links with foreign laboratories, however, we use any opportunity to find new contacts. The Institute organizes scientific meetings, offers study visits to foreign students and supports participation of our specialists in major scientific events abroad. Great emphasis is placed on young scientist-centred educational stays. Our scientists are members of 38 international organizations and 8 editorial boards, respectively.

International scientific meetings organized by the Institute

 8th SE European Bird Migration Network Workshop, Prague, Czech Republic, February 2-5, 2006

The 8th Workshop of Southeast European Bird Migration Network (SEEN) was jointly organized by the Institute of Vertebrate Biology and the Faculty of Science of Charles University. SEEN workshops present a fruitful discussion platform for investigators of avian migration along the less studied southeastern European flyway. A total of 46 participants from 15 countries attended the workshop. The majority of the studies reported on results of orientation experiments, however, several participants demonstrated that also other approaches, such as satellite telemetry or stable isotope analysis are being adopted. These modern methods have challenged the traditional view of avian migrations and enable to answer hitherto unthinkable questions. An important lecture was held by Zdeněk Hubálek from the Department of Medical Zoology, Institute of Vertebrate Biology of the ASCR on avian influenza, followed by a discussion how the network could contribute to the understanding of possible spread of the H5N1 virus. The next workshop will be held in Kraków in 2007.

• Conference "Zoologické dny 2006" [Zoological Days 2006], Brno, February 9-10, 2006

Long-term tradition of the "Zoological days" conference goes back to 1969 and it is connected with the Institute of Vertebrate Biology and the former Institute of Vertebrate Zoology. Nevertheless, its scope and contents has changed as all lifestyle in the Czech Republic after the velvet revolution in 1989. Former meeting of Czech and Slovak zoologists serving as forum of the Czech Zoological Society (co-organizer) became a serious yearly scientific conference where mainly students and young researchers present actual results of their research focussed on various aspects of both vertebrate and invertebrate zoology. The student competition is organized thanks to the sponsorship of the OLYMPUS company which became a regular co-operative partner of the conference. In 2006, six students received awards for their outstanding presentations. Since students presented at least half of all posters and lectures (total number of presentations: 143 lectures and 136 posters) this sponsorship was a great help. Since 2003, the conference has been held at the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University Brno (co-organizer) and approximately 350 both professional and amateur zoologists from the Czech and Slovak Republics participated in it every year.



Participants of the conference watching a presentation in a lecture theatre at Masaryk University (photo by M. Stanko).

Participation in international conferences

- ESF BIRD Final Conference, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, February 16-20, 2005
- Man and Biosphere Meeting, Simenti, Senegal, March 1-2, 2005
- Annual International Symposium FSBI: Fish Habitat Ecology and Conservation, Bangor, Wales, United Kingdom, July 18–22, 2005
- 9th International Congress of Mammalogy, Sapporo, Japan, July 31 August 5, 2005
- 10th Congress of European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Krakow, Poland, August 15-20, 2005
- 29th Ethological Conference, Budapest, Hungary, August 20-27, 2005
- 5th Conference of the European Ornithologists' Union, Strasbourg, France, August 20–23, 2005
- 10th European Bat Research Symposium, Galway, Ireland, August 21-26, 2005
- Applied Ornithology 2005, Zvolen, Slovakia, September 16-17, 2005
- 13th Meeting of the International Hamsterworkgroup, Illmitz, Austria, October 14-17, 2005
- 5th Asia-Pacific Congress of Entomology, Jeju, South Korea, October 18-21, 2005
- European Otter Workshop, Padula, Italy, October 20-23, 2005
- Ecology of Stream Fish: State of the Art and Future Prospects II, León, Spain, June 12-16, 2006
- EIFAC International Symposium, Mondsee, Austria, June 12-17, 2006
- 11th International Behavioral Ecology Congress, Tours, France, July 23-29, 2006
- Genetics of speciation, Vancouver, Canada, July 21-24, 2006
- Behavioral Ecology Congress, Tours, France, July 23–30, 2006
- International Congress of Parasitology, Glasgow, United Kingdom, August 6-11, 2006

- 24th International Ornithological Congress, Hamburg, Germany, August 13–19, 2006
- 36th International Conference, International Association for Danube Research, Vienna, Austria, September 4-8, 2006
- Applied Ornithology 2006, Zvolen, Slovakia, September 8-9, 2006

Membership in international organizations

ALBRECHT T. International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE)

BARUŠ V. Sociedad Cubana de Parasitologia Animal, honorary chairman

BÍMOVÁ B. International Mammalian Genome Society

BRYJA J. Steering Committee of European Science Foundation ČAPEK M. IOC Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature ČERVENÝ J. Ad Hoc Group for Environmental Problems of COST

(Council for Research and Development, EU)

Czech National Committee of the MAB Programme

Working Group for Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe

GVOŽDÍK L. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

> American Society of Naturalists British Herpetological Society

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Society for the Study of Evolution

Steering Committee of European Science Foundation Steering Committee of European Science Foundation

JURAJDA P. Fisheries Society of British Isles MARTÍNKOVÁ N. Society of Systematic Biologists

MRLÍK V. Peregrine Fund, World Center for Birds of Prey

Working Group for Montagu's Harrier

World Working Groups on Birds of Prey and Owls

KOUBEK P. Working Group for Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe

PIÁLEK J. European Society for Evolutionary Biology

International Mammalian Genome Society

Societas Europea Herpetologica

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Society for the Study of Evolution

PROCHÁZKA P. Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft

REICHARD M. Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour

British Ecological Society

European Society for Evolutionary Biology

Fisheries Society of the British Isles Paleoantropology Society (USA)

ZIMA J.

Czech National Committee of the IUBS

International Advisory Board, BIOTER Centre of Excellence (EU)

Insectivores Specialits Group SSC IUCN

International *Sorex araneus* Cytogenetics Committee

Rodents Specialists Group SSC IUCN Societas Europaea Mammalogica

HONZA M.

SLÁDEK V.

Membership in editorial boards

BARUŠ V. Transactions of the Zoological Society of India

Helminthologia

BLAHÁK, P. Folia Zoologica (managing editor)

GVOŽDÍK, L. Folia Zoologica HONZA M. Folia Zoologica HUBÁLEK Z. Cryobiology

Folia Parasitologica

KOUBEK, P. Folia Zoologica LUSK S.: Folia Zoologica

PEŇÁZ M. Folia Zoologica (editor-in-chief)

Quaderni E.T.P. - Journal of Freshwater Biology

Polskie Archiwum Hydrobiologii

SLABÁKOVÁ H. Folia Zoologica

ZIMA J. Hystrix - Italian Journal of Mammalogy

Folia Zoologica

EDUCATION AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Institute lays great emphasis on education and teaching activities. In 2005-2006, we gave lectures at seven faculties of seven universities and supervised 61 undergraduates and 53 postgraduates from 11 faculties of eight universities. Another important fact is that 19 and 9 students supervised by the staff succeeded in obtaining their MSc and PhD degrees, respectively. We have accreditation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic to perform post-gradual studies in zoology at the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, and the Faculty of Biological Sciences, South Bohemian University in České Budějovice. We participate in research projects carried out in two joint laboratories, "Evolutionary Genetics of Animals" (established by the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR in Liběchov and the Institute of Vertebrate Biology in Brno) and "Ichthyoparasitology - The Centre of Basic Research" (established by the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno and the Institute of Vertebrate Biology in Brno). These laboratories provide a firm basis for better interaction between the Academy of Sciences CR and universities, which helps to make the institute attractive to students. Moreover, the scientists of the Institute are members of scientific councils and boards at universities.

Teaching at universities

I4	C-l:4	2005	2006	Faculty/
Lecturer	Subject	hours	hours	University
Albrecht T.	Modern statistical methods	20	20	6
Bryja J.	Molecular ecology	24	24	1
	Population ecology	8	8	1
Čapek M.	Ornithology	48	48	1
Červený J.	Vertebrate Zoology	28	28	7
-	Field course of zoology	60	60	2
	Zoology for game-keepers	26	26	7
Halouzka J.	Tutorials in immunology	8	8	1
Honza M.	Ecology of birds	26	26	1
Hubálek Z.	Fundamentals of microbiology	30	30	1
	Microbial zoonoses and sapronoses	30	30	1
	Tutorials in microbiology	60	60	1
Jurajda P.	Ecology of fish	26	26	1
Koubek P.	Game biology	22	22	1
Lusk S.	Ichthyology	36	36	1
Prokeš M.	Ichthyology	4	4	3
Sládek V.	Biological anthropology 2	54	54	4
	Biological anthropology for archeologists 1	65	65	4
	Biological anthropology for archeologists 2	65	65	4
	Human variability and adaptability	54	54	4
	Locomotor system 1	65	65	4
	Tutorials in anthropology	13	13	4
Svobodová J.	Animal ecology	14	14	7
	Biodiversity	3	3	7
	Ecological methods	8	8	7
	Field course of nature preservation	42	42	7
	Field course of zoology	17	17	7

	General ecology	28	28	7
	Zoology	52	52	7
Tkadlec E.	Life history	30	30	5
	Population ecology	45	45	5
	Scientific methodology	30	30	5
	Time series in ecology	15	15	5
	Tutorials (MSc students)	30	30	5
	Tutorials (PhD students)	20	20	5
Zima J.	Biodiversity	26+26	26+26	1,6
	Field course of zoology	42	42	6
	Genetical methods in zoology	12	12	6
	Systematics and phylogeny of vertebrates	13	13	6
Zukal J.	Behavioral ecology	45	45	1
	Ethology	26	26	1
	Chiropterology	22	22	1
Total 16	42	1333	1333	7/7

¹ Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno

Undergraduate students working in the Institute and/or supervised by the Institute's fellows in 2005-2006

Student	Supervisor/ Consultant	2005	2006	Defended the theses	Faculty/ University
Bartoňová E.	Lusková V.	+	+		1
Bednářová J.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Bejdák P.	Bryja J.		+		1
Bémová P.	Bryja J.	+		2005	9
Bencová V.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Bendová P.	Jurajda P.	+	+		7
Daniszová K.	Červený J.	+	+	2006	8
Dařenová E.	Bryja J.	+	+	2006	1
Doležálková I.	Hubálek Z.		+		1
Dufková P.	Piálek J.	+	+	2006	9
Fainová D.	Procházka P.		+		9
Fornůsková A.	Bryja J.		+		1
Franěk J.	Zukal J.	+	+	2006	1
Friedl L.	Sládek V.	+	+	2006	6
Gryc L.	Zukal J.	+	+	2006	1
Hnojská V.	Sládek V.		+		6
Hrabec M.	Kamler J.	+	+		3
Hoenig V.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Jamrich A.	Gvoždík L.	+	+	2006	11
Janková J.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Jarošová V.	Hubálek Z.	+	+		1
Javůrková V.	Albrecht T.	+	+		7

² Department of General Zoology, University of Essen

³ Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno

⁴ Faculty of Humanities, University of West Bohemia, Plzeň

⁵ Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc

⁶ Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague

⁷ Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Czech University of Agriculture, Prague

Kalinová Z.	Koubek P.		+		10
Konečná G.	Jurajda P.		+		1
Konečný A.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Koubínová D.	Zima J.	+	+		8
Koubová M.	Svobodová J.	+	+		9
Křížová P.	Bryja J.		+		1
Loudová J.	Svobodová J.	+	+		10
Mazurová E.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Měřáková E.	Gvoždík L.		+		1
Michálek B.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Mikeska M.	Čapek M.	+		2005	2
Mrštný L.	Červený J.	+	+	2006	10
Nentvichová M.	Červený J	+	+	2006	10
Novák Z.	Červený J.	+		2005	8
Ondrouchová H.	Bryja J.		+		1
Pankowská A.	Sládek V.	+	+		6
Paták Ladislav	Tkadlec E.	+	+		1
Patzenhauerová H.	Bryja J.	+	+		1
Patzenhauerová H.	Bryja J.	+		2005	1
Petrášová I.	Reichard M.		+		1
Polačik M.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Promerová M.	Bryja J.	+	+		1
Průchová E.	Sládek V.	+		2005	5
Průchová E.	Sládek V.	+	+	2006	6
Rybaříková J.	Honza M.	+		2005	1
Řežucha R.	Reichard M.		+		1
Simprová P.	Zukal J.		+		1
Slavíková K.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Staněk D.	Zukal J.	+	+		1
Suvorov P.	Albrecht T.	+	+		8
Svobodová P.	Hubálek Z.		+		1
Šovčík P.	Prokeš M.	+	+		4
Štrom V.	Reichard M.		+		1
Švanyga J.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1
Tkadlčíková R.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Vávra F.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Vinkler M.	Albrecht T.	+	+		8
Vrtílek M.	Reichard M.		+		1
Zemanová B.	Bryja J.	+	+	2006	1
Zifčák P.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		7
Total 61	20	46	54	19	11/8

¹ Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno

² Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno

³ Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno

⁴ Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno

⁵ Faculty of Humanities, University of West Bohemia, Plzeň

⁶ Faculty of Arts, University of West Bohemia, Plzeň

⁷ Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc

⁸ Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague

⁹ Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice

¹⁰ Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Czech University of Agriculture, Prague

¹¹ Faculty of Science, Komenský University, Bratislava, Slovakia

PhD students working in the Institute and/or supervised by the Institute's fellows in 2005-2006

Student	Supervisor/	2005	2006	Defended	Faculty/	
Student	Consultant	2005	2000	the theses	University	
Barančeková M.	Koubek P.	+		2005	1	
Bednářová J.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
Berková H.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
Bímová B.	Piálek J.	+	+		5	
Čížková D.	Bryja J.		+		1	
Dad'ourek M.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Dufková P.	Piálek J.		+		6	
Ďureje Ľ.	Piálek J.	+	+		i	
Dureje L. Dvořák J.	Gvoždík L.	+	+		1	
Fejková P.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Foltánková V.	Reichard M.	+	+		1	
	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Gregor P.		+	+		1	
Hájková P.	Jurajda P.					
Hejtmánková M.	Gvoždík L.	+	+		4	
Honzírek J.	Koubek P.	+	+		2	
Horák A.	Piálek J.	+	+	****	6	
Horák V.	Lusk S.	+		2005	1	
Hulová Š.	Bryja J.		+		6	
Janáč M.l	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Jánová E.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		1	
Kocurová M.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Konečná M.	Reichard M.		+		1	
Konečný A.	Bryja J.	+	+		1	
Lazarová J.	Zima J.	+		2005	5	
Ležalová R.	Honza M.	+	+		6	
Lisická L.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Losik J.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Mendel J.	Lusková V.	+	+		i	
Měštková L.	Červený J.	+	+		5	
Mikulíček P.	Piálek J.	+		2005	5	
Němečková I.	Mrlík V.	+	+	2006	1	
Nová P.	Zima J.	+	+	2006	5	
Novák V.	Zukal J.	+	+	2000	1	
Nováková M.	Koubek P.	+	+		1	
Pokorný M.	Zukal J.	+	+		1	
Polačik M.		+	+		1	
	Jurajda P.	+	+			
Polačiková L.	Honza M.	+			1	
Poláková R.	Bryja J.		+		1	
Požgayová M.	Honza M.	+	+	2005	1	
Prokešová J.	Homolka M.	+		2005	1	
Sychra J.	Adámek Z.	+	+		1	
Sicha V.	Honza M.	+	+		1	
Sikutová S.	Halouzka J.	+	+		1	
Švanyga J.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Thelenová J.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Trebatická L.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Valová Z.	Jurajda P.	+	+		1	
Vallo P.	Koubek P.	+	+		1	
Varfalvyová D.	Tkadlec E.	+	+		4	
Vetešník L.	Lusk S.	+		2005	3	
					-	

Vyskočilová M.	Piálek J.	+		2005	1
Zachařová J.	Červený J.	+	+		5
Zemanová B.	Bryja J.		+		1
Total 53	16	47	46	9	6/5

¹ Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno

² Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno

³ Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno

⁴ Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc

⁵ Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague

⁶ Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

The "Institute" publishes the international journal "Folia Zoologica". The journal is covered by many reference journals, including the Current Contents. The current value of the impact factor for 2005 amounts 0.585.

Publisher and address of Editorial Office:

Institute of Vetebrate Biology AS CR, v. v. i. Květná 8, 603 65 Brno, Czech Republic. e-mail: editorfz@brno.cas.cz

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- (1) basic series published quarterly, 4 issue s, 1 volume per year
- (2) Folia Zoologica Monographs published occasionally
- (3) Folia Zoologica Supplements published occasionally, usually containing contributions from important international meertings

From 2005 through 2006, altogether 102 papers were published (2005: 57, 2006: 45) of which 48 articles concerning ichthyology (2005: 24, 2006: 24), 37 mammalogy (2005: 30, 2006: 17), 15 ornithology (2005: 12, 2006: 3) one batrachology (2006), and one article was interdisciplinary (2005), respectively.

The authors originate from 26 countries, as follows: Czech Republic 75 articles (2005: 52, 2006: 23), Spain 32 (2005: 12, 2006: 20), Poland 24 (2005: 11, 2006: 13), Germany 19 (2005: 13, 2006: 6), United Kingdom 17 (2005: 5, 2006: 12), Portugal 16 (2005: 3, 2006: 13), Slovakia 16 (2005: 10, 2006: 6), China 15 (2005: 13, 2006: 2), Croatia 15 (2005: 10, 2006: 5), Turkey 14 (2005: 9, 2006: 5), Italy 13 (2005: 8, 2006: 5), Belgium 11 (2005), Russia 9 (2005: 8, 2006: 1), Greece 8 (2005: 5, 2006: 3), Argentina 7 (2005: 4, 2006: 3), Hungary 5 (2005: 3, 2006: 2), Austria 4 (2005: 1, 2006: 3), Iran 4 (2006), Slovenia 4 (2005), Belarus 3 (2005), France 3 (2005: 1 2006: 2), Finland 2 (2006), New Zealand 2 (2005: 1, 2006: 1), Lithuania 1 (2006), Uganda 1 (2006), and USA 1 (2006), respectively.