



RENOWNED SCIENTIST, ICHTHYOLOGIST, AND PROFESSOR PETR RÁB HAS PASSED AWAY

The Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences announces with deep sorrow that on November 16, 2024, at the age of 73, the world lost an exceptional scientist, a passionate advocate for science, a respected academician, a professor, former director, and above all, an extraordinary person and beloved colleague, Prof. Ing. Petr Ráb, DrSc., dr. h. c.



Professor Petr Ráb devoted his research career to fish cytogenetics and systematics. His work significantly influenced our understanding of the evolution, genetics, and conservation of freshwater fish genetic resources. He was a leading expert in polyploidisation among cyprinid fishes, the genetics of hybrid and asexual forms, karyotype evolution, and the application of molecular methods in fish systematics and taxonomy. His findings were published in prestigious international scientific journals, and he authored several chapters in pivotal books. He was the principal investigator or co-investigator of numerous substantial scientific projects and was recognised as one of the world's most prominent researchers in fish genetics.

After graduating from the University of Agriculture in Prague with a specialization in fisheries and fish biology, he joined the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, where he worked until his passing. He founded and led the Laboratory of Fish Genetics for many years and served as the Institute's director from 1994 to 2002. Beyond his scientific endeavours, he was a significant organizer of Czech science holding numerous important roles at both the national and international levels. Within the Czech Academy of Sciences, he was a member of the Scientific Council, the Academic Council, and its Presidium, and he performed many other key positions that contributed to the coordination and operation of academic and scientific life. He was a member of the European Ichthyologic Society's committee, the national committee for collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the Czech representative to the European Research, Technology, and Development (RT&D) Evaluation Network, under the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG Research) of the European Commission, a member of the Breeding Council - an advisory body of the Fishing Association of the CR, as well as a member of scientific and subject councils of several universities and repeatedly served on evaluation committees for grant agencies.

In addition to his research activities, he was deeply involved in teaching. He served as a Professor of Fisheries at the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters, University of South Bohemia, and as an Associate Professor of Zoology at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague. In 2017, he was awarded an honorary doctorate (*doctor honoris causa*) in Fisheries by the University of South Bohemia. His lectures continue to inspire generations of students, who benefited from his extensive experience and profound knowledge. He was also a prominent popularizer of science, earning numerous awards for his outreach articles.

Beyond his scientific work, Petr Ráb was known for his tireless support of young people, fostering their education and ethical values. For over fifty years, he dedicated himself to a summer children's camp at Sluneční zátoka, where he spent most of his time as the head leader and, as "Admiral", imparted a love of nature and basic moral principles to generations of young "sailors".

Professor Petr Ráb was not only an outstanding scientist and educator but also an exceptional person whose kindness, distinctive humour, and wisdom inspired and united those around him. His legacy lives on through his eminent contribution to science, numerous students he mentored, and the enduring impact he had on those who discovered a passion for science and nature thanks to his guidance. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, the scientific community, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his entire family.