

IN MEMORIAM DR. DÁNIEL GÁL  
(1934—1988)



Death came to him so dramatically, and unexpectedly. He was only 53.

Born in Lajosmizse in 1934, he attended József Katona Grammar School in Kecskemét. From 1953 he read biology and chemistry at the University of Szeged, graduating in 1957 with distinction.

He began his career as a teacher and research worker at the Department of General Physiology and Biology of this university, and continued this work as a research assistant at the Zoological Department.

His research field was the study of the Tisza fauna, with special focus on the invertebrates. Research meant a great deal to him: a way of living that determined his life. He was dedicated to his work, with unremitting enthusiasm, even during the spring of this year. He published numerous papers on his field, mainly in the journal 'Tiscia'. He delivered lectures at a great number of conferences, the last occasion being in Novi Sad, where his scientific results were received with acclaim. He was awarded his doctoral degree "summa cum laude" in 1966. He was profoundly familiar with the living and dead Tisza areas; he was a perfectionist in his scientific surveying and charting tasks. His contribution to this field is inestimable; without his work our knowledge of the history of the Tisza area would be very much poorer.

Nevertheless, he preferred to be considered a teacher: he could orient and instruct with confidence both in laboratory classes and in field practicals. He spared no effort to pass on his knowledge to the younger generation, and he was empathic when it came to examinations.

He was always ready to help his colleagues, whether it was the Department Library or the Collection that needed extra work, or one of us had to be substituted.

At first we hardly even noticed that he was ill. After the medical examinations and an operation, he returned to be among us again as if nothing had happened.

And then came the time when we could not help noticing - to our great despair - that his physical strength and energy were failing him, but we still did not suspect that the disease would end his life so tragically soon.

We all accompanied him on his last journey and we shall all preserve his work and cherish his memory with love and reverence.

*Dr. I. Benedeczky*