

### Celebrating the 70th birthday of Attila Vörös

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Hungarian palaeontologists and geoscientists of all sorts respectfully congratulated Attila Vörös, ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and retired head of Department of Hungarian Natural History Museum, on his 70th birthday in June 2014.

Attila Vörös was born in Budapest in 1944. He finished his primary and secondary schools there, and graduated as a geologist at the Eötvös Loránd University in 1968. He was awarded a doctoral degree by the same University in 1971. Later he received his Candidate of Science Degree (now equivalent of a PhD) in 1985, and became Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1997. Not long after he was elected as a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2004 and became ordinary member in 2010. Since 2012 he has been serving as the elected chair of the Earth Sciences Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

After a short period at the Department of Palaeontology of Eötvös University (1968–1970) he became a curator of the Hungarian Natural History Museum and has spent his whole scientific career at HNHM (1972–2012). He served as the head of the Department of Palaeontology and Geology between 1986 and 2002 and was also editor of the predecessor of this journal (*Fragmenta Mineralogica et Palaeontologica*) between 1981 and 1996. In 2003 he founded a Research Group for Palaeontology working in the Hungarian Natural History Museum but funded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was the head of this Research Group from 2003 to 2011.

Attila Vörös' scientific activity is very diverse both stratigraphically and thematically: his major topics include taxonomy, biostratigraphy and palaeoecology of Triassic ammonoids; taxonomy, palaeoecology and palaeobiogeography of Jurassic brachiopods; plate tectonics and Mesozoic palaeogeography of the Western Tethys; Jurassic and Eocene carbonate sedimentology; and Mesozoic stratigraphy of the Alpine-Carpathian region. He is author or co-author of more

than 200 scientific publications, many of them in high-ranked international palaeontological journals.

Dr Vörös's extensive scientific and science organizing activities were acclaimed by several prizes and honours. He was awarded with the most prestigious Hungarian palaeontological prize, the Hantken Miksa Medal twice by the



**Fig. 1.** Dr. Attila Vörös, ordinary member of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is 70 years old

Hungarian Geological Society (in 2000, for his monograph on Triassic ammonoids, and in 2012, for his monograph on Pliensbachian brachiopods). He received the Academic Prize from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1996, and



**Figs 2–4.** Birthday celebration in the Hungarian Natural History Museum (10 June, 2014). 2 = Presentation of the Pro studio et fidei Medal by Zoltán Korsós, director general of the Hungarian Natural History Museum; 3 = Birthday cake with a marzipan ammonite, sweeter than the original from the Middle Triassic of the Balaton Highland; 4 = Among friends and colleagues



Fig. 5. *Pro studio et fidei* Medal

the Ipolyi Arnold Prize from the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund in 2005. He is an honorary member of the Hungarian Geological Society since 2003.

Attila Vörös' 70th birthday was celebrated in the Hungarian Natural History Museum on 10 June, 2014. The event was organized by the Department of Palaeontology and Geology of Hungarian Natural History Museum and the MTA–MTM–ELTE Research Group for Palaeontology. The diverse scientific programme covered his life and broad scientific interests, with presentations on his scientific career (by András Galácz), the Triassic of the Balaton Highland (Tamás Budai), Triassic ammonoids (Marco Balini), Jurassic brachiopods (Alfréd Dulai), plate tectonics (Ferenc Horváth), and another career summary (József Pálffy). A highlight of the event was the screening of a surprise video featuring interviews about Attila with many of his friends and colleagues. His very successful scientific career, devoted work and loyalty to the Hungarian Natural History Museum was recognized by awarding the *Pro studio et fidei* Medal, which was presented by Zoltán Korsós, director general of Hungarian Natural History Museum.

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