

J. A. KRENNER

(1900 - 1979)

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By

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He was born on the 30th of August, 1900 in Budapest, son of the late József Sándor Krenner and Amália Halász, and died at 21st of June, 1979.

He completed his studies of the primary and secondary school in Budapest. After maturation he was an university student of medicine for three years. But since he felt an invincible longing for the study of microscopic parasitic fungi and diatoms he changed for the University of Sciences of Budapest. He received his doctoral degree in general botany in 1924. He got married with Melinda (Wenck) Védfy in 1925 and married again in 1951, with the same person.

Still in 1924 he was employed as an assistant at the Botanical Department of the Hungarian National Museum. Here his task was to cissify the tropical Umbelliferae of the general herbarium following the Kew Index and to compile an inventory of the famous diatom cabinets of the late Dr. Pantocsek whose exceedingly rich diatom collection had been purchased after his death.

This latter task was most welcomed by Krenner as it gave him opportunity to get acquainted among others with the wunderful and magnificent diatom "type slides" of those cabinets all the more so, since he himself had already been deeply enganged in diatom studies when still a 16-year old school boy for he had a good microscope of his own. In the Botanical Department he also had a chance of determining plant parasitic fungi. Besides he made many original microscopic drawings and paintings of Chara algae and Phycomycetes for the late director Dr. F. Filarszky and for the frequent guest of the latter, Dr. A. Scherffel. Owing to his excellent ability in microscopical drawings Krenner's work was much valued.

In 1926 there was a great demand for a young agriculturalplant-pathologist a so-called mycopathologist at the Hungarian Research Institute for Plant Pathology and Control. They wanted to acquire someone with a talent in this field as a helper in fulfilling the manyfolded obligatory tasks of the new International Plant Protection Contract signed in Rome that time. The choice fell to Dr. Krenner, who left the Museum - at that time not very willingly - and was enlisted as an assistant in the staff of the Institute for Plant Pathology. In the atmosphere of this Institute there was not much room of an offer for sentimentalism at least at the beginning of Krenner's duties. Nevertheless, in about a year he gradually felt recompensated and began to love the multilateral work that a waited him. Precise microscopical and laboratory examinations had not been the strong side of the Institute, since conditions deteriorated in these research fields during the first World War and in the following years. So Dr. Krenner reorganized laboratory works permanently pointing out the responsibility of the staff. And the directorate of the Institute rewarded his suggestions. Among the outdoor works the field inspections were those he liked best. He developed methods for field investigations and was deeply interested in the primordial causes of those plant diseases which were of no pathogenic origin.

His career proceeded at a pace usual for a civil servant and he stepped forward to higher positions until 1945 when he was appointed director of the Institute. In 1956 he was invited to the University of Sciences of Budapest and was qualified as university-lecturer in "The parasitology of lower plants."

The Hungarian minister of justice appointed him in 1948 to sworn official expert to the Law Court of Budapest for the subject "The fungous diseases of the timbers in buildings and their control".

He was employed in the Institute of Plant Pathology for 24 years. He organized the Laboratory of Quarantine in 1952 worked there in his special field until 1961 when he retired.

The title of "Candidate of Biology" was granted to him in 1965 by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He discontinued his work as a plant-pathologist in 1961, but since then Dr. Krenner returned back to his favourite field, i.e. diatoms.

In the world two fossil diatom collections rich in type species are known, one in the Hustedt's and the other is the Pantocsek collection. The latter is housed in the Botanical Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. Unfortunately, during the second World War a part of the slides was demaged, many special slides were broken. J. A. Krenner borrowed a light microscope from Professor Soó to start to the reconstruction and reidentification of Pantocsek's collection.

All the slides was studied by Krenner. These slides received a number. According to this a new register of the species name and localities were compiled slide by slide. In this list the species of the same locality being in hollowed slides belongs to these numbers. As a result of this careful work the remaining collection of Pantocsek today is useful for everybody.

It should be noted that the vials containing the original diatoms which were collected or bought by Pantocsek, remained complete in our Museum. Dr. Krenner decided to reconstruct the whole original Pantocsek collection by these vials, but his death prevented him doing it. The result of his work on the fossil Diatomaceae of Pantocsek collection are summarized in a paper. This posthumus paper was completed for the press by L. Hajdu.

Dr. Krenner spent nearly 16 years with the reconstruction of the Pantocsek collection. By his valuable scientific work is kept in diatomologist mind.

After his death, Mrs. Krenner presented a small diatoma collection an iconograph-catalogue of diatoms, some books and a micro-fungi collection - 309 capsules - to our Museum. The micro-fungi collection contains mainly agricultural plant disease fungi.

List of publications of J. A. Krenner

1. Über die Bewegung der Oscillarien. Mit 1 Tafel. - Archiv für Protistenkunde, 1925, 51: 530-541. Plate 22.
2. Algae. Bacillariales. In: Additamenta ad floram Albaniae. - A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Balkán-Kutatásainak Tudományos Eredményei, 1926, Budapest, 3: 90-121. Plates 4-12.
3. A cukor- és takarmányrépa gombák okozta betegségei. /The fungoid diseases of the sugar- and fodder-beet./ With text figures. - Növényvédelem, 1926, 6: 167-170.
4. A borsó két veszedelmes betegsége. /Two dangerous diseases of the pea./ With text figures. - Növényvédelem, 1926, 7: 197-198.
5. A Champignon parazitagombák által előidézett betegségei. /The diseases of cultivated mushroom caused by parasitic fungi./ With text figures. - Növényvédelem, 1926, 11: 330-335.
6. A jácint bacteriozisa. /On the bacteriosis of the hyacint./ With text figures. - Növényvédelem, 1926, 2: 367-368.
7. A fák zuzmóinak irtása. /The control of the lichens of the trees./ - Növényvédelem, 1928, 4: 4-5.
8. Az ibolya betegségei./The diases of the violet./ With text figure. - Növényvédelem, 1928, 4: 65-66.
9. A rózsa lisztharmat-betegsége. /On the powdery-mildew of the rose./ With text figure. - Növényvédelem, 1928, 7: 129-130.
10. Megfigyelések a Magyarországon 1926-1928 években jelentkezett Növénybetegségekről./Observation on plant diseases occurrence in Hungary during the period 1926-1928./ - Kisérletügyi Közlem., 1929, 32: 396-404.
11. Néhány mikológiai és növénykórtani adat hazánkból. (Einige mykologische und pflanzenpathologische Angaben aus Ungarn.) With text figure. - Bot. Közlem., 1941, 38: 62-67.
12. Tanulmányok az alsóbbrendü gombák köréből I. Egy félreismert Pythium-fajról. (Studien aus dem Gebiete der mikroskopischen Pilze I. Über eine verkannte Pythium-Art.) With 3 Tables. - Bot. Közlem., 1943, 40: 58-81. (Plate 1-3).
13. Tanulmányok az alsóbbrendü gombák köréből II. A nemesgesztenye cilindrosporózisa - A gombák származása. (Studien aus dem Gebiete der mikroskopischen Pilze II. Cylindrosporiose der Edelkastanie - Der Ursprung der Pilze.) With 1 Table. - Bot. Közlem., 1944, 41: 115-141. (Plate 4).
14. Hazai rizstermesztésünk a növénypatológia szemszögéből. (Der ungarische Reisbau vom Gesichtspunkt der Pflanzenpatologie.) - Magyar Gombászati Lapok , 1945, 2: 77-85.
15. Krenner J. - Árvai J. - Szabó J.né: A burgonya veszedelmes kártevői. /The potato wart./ - A Növényvédelem Időszerü Kérdései, 1953, 3: 1-2.

16. A len szártörőgombás betegségéről. (Über die Stengelbruchkrankenheit des Flachses.) - Agrártudomány, 1954, 6: 38-42.
17. The natural history of the sunflower broomrape (Orobanche cumana Wallr.) I. The morphological anatomy of the sunflower broomrape seed, its germination and the infection mechanism of its germ. With 15 figures. - Acta Bot. Acad. Sci. Hung., 1958, 4: 113-114.
18. Parasita gombák által okozott termő és termésfejlődési rendellenességek . (The development disorders of the pistils and fruits caused by parasitic fungi .) - A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Biológiai Csoportja által 1958. IX. 10-12-én Vácrátóton rendezett Nemzetközi Növényanatómiai Konferencia jelentései, 1958, Supplement No. 9.
19. A burgonyavész Phytophora infestans (Mont.) de Bray előrejelzése az időjárási tényezők figyelembevételével. /Prognosis of the potato late blight fungus Phytophora infestans Mont. de Bray in relation to the weather conditions./ - Növényvédelmi prognózis az 1961 évre, Budapest, 1961, 127.
20. A hagymaperonoszpora (Peronospora Schleideni Ung.) előrejelzése az időjárási viszonyok figyelembevételével. /Prognosis of the onion downy mildew fungus (Peronospora Schleideni Ung.) in relation to the weather conditions./- Növényvédelmi prognózis az 1961. évre, Budapest, 1961, 128.
21. Amerikai napraforgó-betegség megjelenése Magyarországon./The incidence of an American fungoid disase of the sunflower in Hungary./ With text figures. - A növényvédelem időszerü kérdései, 1961, 2: 30-36.
22. Studies in the field of the microscopic fungi III. On Entomophthora Aphidis H. Hoffm. with special regard to the family of the Entomophthoraceae in general. - Acta Bot. Acad. Sci. Hung., 1961, 7: 345-376. (Plates 1-6).
23. The post-war remains of the diatom collection of Dr. József Pantocsek.

Moreover he wrote 7 popular science papers.

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