Wastewater Treatment, Plant Dynamics and Management in Constructed and Natural Wetlands

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Editor

Wastewater Treatment, Plant Dynamics and Management in Constructed and Natural Wetlands

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Preface

At present, constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment are a widely used technology for treatment of various types of wastewaters. The International Water Association (then International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control) recognized wetlands as useful tools for wastewater treatment and established the series of biennial conferences on the use of wetland systems for water pollution control in 1988. In about 1993, we decided to organize a workshop on nutrient cycling in natural and constructed wetlands with the major idea to bring together researchers working on constructed and also natural wetlands. It was not our intention to compete with IWA conferences, but the workshop should rather complement the series on treatment wetlands by IWA. We believed that the exchange of information obtained from natural and constructed wetlands would be beneficial for all participants. And the time showed that we were correct.

The first workshop took place in 1995 at Třeboň in South Bohemia and most of the papers dealt with constructed wetlands. Over the years we extended the topics on natural wetlands (such as role of wetlands in the landscape or wetland restoration and creation) and during the 6th workshop held at Třeboň from May 30 to June 3, 2006, nearly half of 38 papers presented during the workshop dealt with natural wetlands. This workshop was attended by 39 participants from 19 countries from Europe, Asia, North and South Americas and Australia. The volume contains 29 peer-reviewed papers out of 38 papers which were presented during the workshop.

The organization of the workshop was partially supported by grants No. 206/06/0058 "Monitoring of Heavy Metals and Selected Risk Elements during Wastewater Treatment in Constructed Wetlands" from the Czech Science Foundation and Grant. No. 2B06023 "Development of Mass and Energy Flows Evaluation in Selected Ecosystems" from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic.

Praha
August 2007

Jan Vymazal

In Memoriam for Olga Urbanc-Berčič

Olga Urbanc-Berčič (1951–2007)

Olga Urbanc-Berčič was a biologist in the real sense of the word. She regarded her profession as a vocation which influenced her whole life. In 1975, after her diploma she got a post on the National Institute of Biology in Ljubljana in the laboratory for electronic microscopy. Some years later she joined the group researching freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems in the same institution. In 1988 she finished her Master's with a thesis titled "The use of *Eichhornia crassipes* and *Lemna minor* for wastewater treatment". In 2003 she successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis titled "The availability of nutrients in the rhizosphere of reed stands (*Phragmites australis*) in relation to water regime in the intermittent Lake Cerknica". Her service to her professional interests was totally unselfish. She was involved in many different projects, but most of all she liked the research dedicated to wetlands and aquatic plants. We were a perfect team for many years. I will never forget the fruitful time we spent in the field sampling and researching. The results of her research are

summarised in numerous scientific and professional publications. Her studies of the role of water-level fluctuations in nutrient cycling led to a wider understanding of wetland functions. Her work additionally clarified the importance of macrophytes in aquatic systems. She was active in different non-governmental organisations, being the president of the Slovenian Ecological Society for many years. As a warm-hearted, generous, enthusiastic and positively oriented person she was a link among people and an efficient advocate of nature. On a cold, grey Wednesday in February, we accompanied her to her last home. Her death was a great loss for family, friends, colleagues and the community. We will miss her, but her work and her spirit will live with us forever.

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Olga Urbanc-Berčič authored more than 100 contributions in international and Slovenian research and popular journals, monographs and conference proceedings. The following list contains only a short selection of her publications.

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