



Carl-Olof Jacobson

24 April 1929 - 4 June 2018

Carl-Olof Jacobson was born on April 24, 1929 in Ör parish, Dalsland, southern Sweden. In 1948, he graduated from high school in Vänersborg municipality and proceeded to study zoology at Uppsala University where he defended his Master's thesis in 1952. His Licentiate and Doctoral degrees (1958 and 1964, respectively) were earned at the same university.

After receiving his doctorate, Carl-Olof Jacobson pursued a research career path at Uppsala University. He belonged to the academic staff for more than forty years, including two decades as Professor of Morphological Zoology (1970-1989). From 1977 to 1989 he was also Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and a member of the University Board. He also served as a visiting fellow at Wistar Institute for Biology and Medicine in Philadelphia (1967/1968) and a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin (1979). Carl-Olof Jacobson retired in 1994 and continued his research projects at the Department of Physiology and Developmental Biology as Professor emeritus.

The main areas studied by Professor Jacobson belonged to applied neurobiology and ecology of clean water. His activities relating to organisation of research, communication of science and enhancement of research collaboration had equal significance, to say the least. Besides, he was a highly regarded lecturer at Swedish Folk High Schools.

Carl-Olof Jacobson became a Member to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) in 1979. For a nine-year period (1989-1997), he was Secretary General of KVA and an ex-officio member of the Nobel Foundation's Board of Directors. At that time he made a significant contribution to the enhancement of scientific relations between the Baltic States and Sweden (Nordic countries), moreover, it happened a good many years before the reestablishment of Estonian independence. His role in the Baltic countries with regard to coordinating research evaluation by foreign experts is definitely worthy of acclaim, especially since he was the primary initiator of the entire process – a fact that is little known to the general public.

The Estonian Academy of Sciences elected Carl-Olof Jacobson its Foreign Member in 1995. He was also a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Royal Society of Sciences (Uppsala), Royal Physiographic Society (Lund), *Academia Europaea*, etc. Carl-Olof Jacobson was a long-time Chairman of the Swedish Linné Society and took part in the work of several professional associations, e.g. International Society of Developmental Biologists.

In 2001, his notable contribution to advancement of cooperation between the Baltic and Nordic academies was acknowledged with the Medal of the Baltic Academies of Sciences.

Carl-Olof Jacobson died after long illness on 4 June 2018.