

In this B.A. thesis I focus closer on the conditions of the reception of Darwinism in Bohemia in the period between 1859 and 1918. My research deals with the basic mapping and evaluation of the process of acceptance of Darwinism in Czech society, both in public discourse and in more specialized discourse of academic society and in the field of theology. In terms of the professional and scientific discourse I examine the questions of when, through which channels, and in what forms the works of Charles Darwin got into Czech general public; and how people accepted and reflected them. I also examine the responses on Darwin's theories which appeared in contemporary press and literature. I assumed that attitude of particular social groups toward Darwin and his theory was different. Distinct viewpoints took naturalists and scientists and public administration and the Catholic Church. And somewhere between these two different viewpoints occurred the general public.

In the thesis I have analysed the process of the reception of Darwinism in Bohemia in the mentioned period and arrived to conclusions that this process did not take place accordingly in all three monitored discourses – public, academic and theological. The ambivalence between mainly positive reception of academic society and negative reaction of the Catholic Church was expressed in the last monitored discourse – the public. The social group which had a fundamental and critical credit of the positive reception of Darwinism in Bohemia was the Czech academic community. In the broader Central European context is proper to say that the reception of Darwinism in Bohemia proceeded comparatively simply and less thunderously than in surrounding countries.