

Do we need scientific observations during total solar eclipses?

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I was born in Spisske Hanusovce, Slovakia, on January 7, 1942. Since 1959 I have been working at the Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (AI SAS) in Tatranska Lomnica, Skalnate Pleso and Lomnický štít observatories. I graduated from the Comenius University, Faculty Mathematics and Physics, specialization Astronomy, Bratislava in 1970, In 1975 I obtained an RNDr. degree from the Charles University in Prague, in 1978 a PhD. degree and in 1994 a DrSc. one, both from the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

I have been actively engaged in the solar research for most of my scientific life, specializing in the solar corona structures and dynamics, dynamics of prominences, and solar-terrestrial research. Observations of the emission coronal lines 530.3 and 637.4 nm and prominences were performed at the Lomnický štít coronal station with a 20-cm lens coronagraph. Starting in 1973, I have participated in 20 expeditions to observe total solar eclipses in many countries around the world (Niger, India - 2, Indonesia, Russia-2, Mexico, Chile, Mongolia, Venezuela, Turkey, Zambia, South Africa and Pacific Ocean-Galapagos Legend, Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, Australia and Gabon). The main scientific achievements were presented in 220 scientific papers (mostly published in internationally-recognized journals), 80 talks and 6 books (in Slovak). The papers are almost exclusively based on my own observations, made at the Lomnický štít coronal station and/or during solar eclipses. I have given more than 1300 lectures for the public and written many popular papers.

During the period 1995-2005 I was a member of the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. I am also a member of the IAU, the Czech Astronomical Society—honorary (2013), the European Astronomical Society, and AGU. I was a vice-director of the AI SAS from 1993 to 1997.

The most important awards: the Governmental Pribina Cross of the second rank (2008), an SAS award for science (1989) as a team member of 3 co-workers, and an SAS award for popularization of science (1982 and 2005), a Gold prize of the Slovak Astronomical Society (1984), and asteroid 26390 is honored with name RUSIN.