

In memoriam

Corr. Member Prof. Botyo Atanasov Botev (1919-2008)

Corr. Member Prof. Botyo Atanasov Botev, a long-standing director of the Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Professor on General Biology in the High Medical Institute, Sofia of many years, past away on 5th May, 2008.

Corr. Member Prof. Botyo A. Botev was born on 26th October 1919 in village of Tchomakovtsy, former Biala Slatina district. From 1938 to 1942 he was a student on Natural history in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridsky" and graduated in

Natural sciences in 1946. From 1948 to 1960 he was an assistant and lecturer in the Department of General Biology, High Medical Institute, Sofia. In 1960 he was elected for Associate Professor and in 1967- for Professor of General Biology. From 1984 till his decease Prof. B. Botev was a Corr. Member of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Corr. Member Prof. B. Botev was one of the eminent leaders of Bulgarian Biological Science and Director of the Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1972-1989). Under his leadership the scientific structure of the Institute was changed and the scientific investigations were expanded, especially in their ecological approaches. In reference to those intensive scientific organization efforts, the publication of three periodical issues "Acta Zoologica Bulgarica", "Ecologia" and "Hydrobiology" have started.

Corr. Member Prof. B. Botev paid special attention and stimulated the improvement of the organization of the biological sciences in the country. He was scientific secretary of BAS (1970-1972; 1982-1986), Deputy Director of the United Center of Biology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1976-1977), Director of Scientific Medico-biological Institute, Medical Academy (1977-1979), Head of Department of Medical Faculty (1977-1982), Dean of the Faculty of Biology of the Sofia University, etc.

Cell Biology was the main area of Prof. Botev's scientific interest. First his investigations in this field, as an assistant of Acad. M. Popov, were connected with persistence and characteristics of so called "chromidial structures" in animal cells. Enlarging the range of his scientific interests in the second half of the 50es for a first time in Bulgaria he successfully cultivated *in vitro* plant tissues and organs. The next step in his research was studies on cell proliferation and differentiation during the animal ontogenesis. Having in mind his own ideas for cell proliferation as the essential characteristics of the living organisms for self-reproduction, prof. B. Botev discussed in comparative aspects of the general principles of three types morphogenesis: primary (embryonic), secondary (regenerative), and pathological (tumorigenesis) in animals.

From the late 50es Corr. Member Prof. B. Botev carried out intensive immunological research, predominantly in the tumor immunology. A part of his studies in this field was connected with elucidation of presence and characteristics of tumor antigens, and another part, to the nature and dynamics of immune reactions of the organism against the developing tumor.

The effective and profound scientific activity of Corr. Member Prof. B. Botev and of leded by him teams was included in over 300 publications and high number of reports, including monographs, textbooks, many reviews and popular scientific articles.

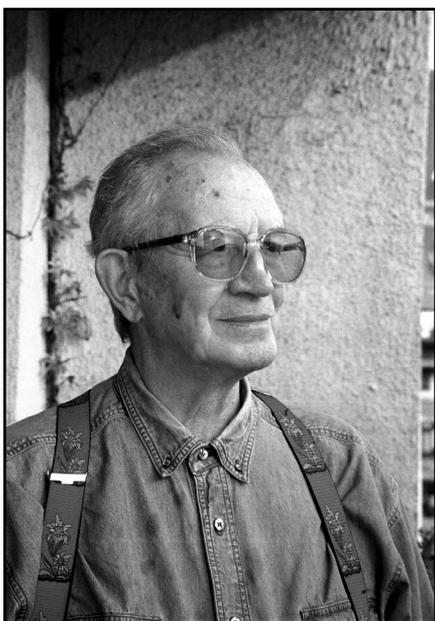
During his long organizational efforts he took an active part in leadership of academic and national scientific programs. He was Member of scientific councils, Editor-in-Chief and Member of editorial boards of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, of the publishing houses *Medicina i Fizkultura*, *Narodna Prosveta*, series *Fauna of Bulgaria* and journals and proceedings 'Acta zoologica bulgarica', 'Priroda' (BAS), 'Priroda i Znanie', etc.

During more than 40 years he was an active lecturer as an Assistant, Associated Professor and Professor in High Medical Institute, Sofia, and Biological Faculty of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridsky'.

His public engagement was also very significant. He was a member of the Governing Board of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, President, and later, Honorable member of the Bulgarian Natural Society. After his retirement in 1990 Corr. Member Prof. Botev kept his scientific interests and continued to participate actively in research in Institute of Zoology, Department 'Experimental Zoology'.

Corr. Member Prof. B. Botev was a modest, honest, responsible and kind-hearted man and deeply reputable by all his colleagues and students. He will remain in our memory with his deep devotion to the natural sciences and great contributions to the development and consolidation of the Institute of Zoology.

The Editorial Board



In memoriam

Prof. Dr. Michail Josifov (1927-2008)

Dr. Michail Josifov, a most prominent contemporary Bulgarian entomologist and long-lasting member of Editorial board of the *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, suddenly passed away in Sofia on July 28, 2008.

Dr. Josifov was born in Sofia on 14 November 1927. Since his youth he was interested in insects - first in butterflies and later in true bugs. He graduated Biology at the Sofia University in 1950. He obtained a PhD in 1964. In 1981 he became Doctor of Science, and in 1983 - senior researcher.

After the University he was an assistant professor at the the Department of Hydrobiology at the Sofia University. During the period of 1951-1954 he served the obligatory military service in Bulgarian army. Already in 1954 he became a member of the staff of the Department of Entomology (since 1972 Department of Taxonomy, Faunology and Zoogeography) of the Institute of Zoology, Sofia, and lead the department in 1969-1978; 1978-1982 and 1986-1992.

It's rather doubtful that one would be able to list all the countries in which Dr. Josifov had described new taxa or where he had contributed to the thorough studying of the local fauna. But it should be definitely mentioned: North Korea (to which he dedicated a dozen of field trips and many years of study), Middle Asia, Mozambique, Vietnam etc.

Besides the dozens of precisely written and elaborately illustrated taxonomic works, Dr Josifov has also published interesting analyses on the origins of Balkan and European Heteroptera. He is one of the authors of the *Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic Region*. And we should not neglect all his remarkable books and articles addressed to the general public. In 1986 M. Josifov was awarded the order of St. Cyrill & Methodius for his contribution to Bulgarian science.

Dr. Josifov preferred the silence of study and the diligent and conscious labour to any group meetings and pseudo-public activity that were so popular at the uneasy communistic period in the history of our country. He was never tempted to get involved in politics or in the superstitious academic vanity. Being a prominent and respected zoologist, however, he could not avoid taking part in scientific councils, nor he could escape all the administrative work.

Just from the begining of his scientific way Dr. Josifov was a member of the Editorial boards of *Fauna of Bulgaria* (1979-1992). After establishment of *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, as substitute for *Bulletin de l'Institut de Zoologie et Musée*, he became a member of the Editorial board (1975-1995). His vast knowledge in the field of zoology, his experience, enthusiasm and many efforts were always helpfull for the improvement of the content and the layout of the journal. To became the journal an important platform for publications of many Bulgarian and foreign zoologists.

For generations of Bulgarian zoologists and entomologists, Michail Josifov has been a teacher and an example of devotion to science, perfect work, knowledge, ground-breaking ideas and unresting enthusiasm about knowledge and new discoveries. His always helping hand, his advice, and the friendly conversations with Prof. Josifov remain priceless for anyone who knows him. All his friends and colleagues addressed him as Mischa.

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