



IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR DR. MLADEN ZIVKOV, DSC (1941-2009)

Professor Dr. Mladen Zivkov, DSc, an eminent and highly respected Bulgarian ichthyologist passed away on 6th January 2009.

Prof. Dr Mladen Zivkov was born on 3rd November 1941 in Gorna Luka, Montana (Bulgaria). He graduated as an ichthyologist from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural Science of Charles's University in Prague, Czech Republic, in 1967. In 1981, he obtained PhD degree and in 1999 Doctor of Sciences (DSc) degree in Hydrobiology. Since 1967 he worked at the Institute of Zoology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a research scientist (1973-1984), associate professor (1984-2000) and professor (since 2000).

Prof. Zivkov was one of the most eminent Bulgarian ichthyologists. His main research activities focused on diversity, faunistics and population biology and ecology of fresh water fishes. He studied different parameters related to growth, reproduction and feeding and developed methods to describe the relationships and regularities in population biological variability in fresh water fishes. His original scientific and methodological contributions have been widely applied in ichthyology, fish conservation biology, reservoir management, fishery, aquaculture, etc., and thus have helped the preservation and sustainable use of fish resources in the Bulgarian inland water bodies.

Prof. Zivkov had long and significant experience in the academic administration as well as in the administration of national and international scientific projects and teams. Since 1994, Prof. Zivkov was the head of the Laboratory of Ichthyology and since 2000 the head of the Department of Hydrobiology. In the periods 1984-1993 and 1999-2003 he was the Secretary of the Institute's Scientific Council, and since August 2003 the Director of the Institute of Zoology. In the period 2004-2008 alone, he was a coordinator of 5 big national and 3 international projects and participated in many others.

His expert work was highly valued both nationally and internationally. Prof. Zivkov was member of the National Scientific Coordination Council on Biodiversity, as well as of many other expert and scientific councils and commissions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Environment and Water, National Agency of Fishery and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply, Bulgarian Union of Hunters and Anglers, Institute of Fishery and Aquaculture – Varna, Institute of Fishery and Aquaculture – Plovdiv, Sofia University, Plovdiv University, etc.

Prof. Zivkov was much respected for his highly professional editorial work. Recently, he was the chief editor of "Fauna of Bulgaria", and member of the editorial boards of "Acta zoologica bulgarica" and "Ichthyologia" (Belgrade). He published many papers, books and monographs. He published over 120 scientific papers and 6 books and monographs. The well known is his book *Ribite v Bulgaria* (Fishes of Bulgaria; GeaLibris, Sofia, 1995 246 pp.) which he wrote together with Dr M. Karapetkova. He was also actively involved with teaching and training MSc and PhD students.

With his demise we have lost a highly esteemed scientist, a remarkable expert in hydrobiology and ichthyology, a dear colleague and a good friend.

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