

**PROFESSOR PhD TOADER CHIFU AT THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



**Professor PhD Toader CHIFU** was born in Târnăuca, Jud. Dorohoi (nowadays the locality is in Ukraine Republic), on February 27, 1936.

He started the primary school courses in 1941 in his origin village Crihănești - Târnăuca, but because of the war he finished these studies in 1946 at the Șendriceni Applications School. The Secondary School has been realized in Pomârla (exception the 7<sup>th</sup> year followed in Bucecea). Also in Pomârla he followed the courses of the Technical Agronomical School (graduated in 1954). After the graduate of the secondary school he worked as agronomist technician (1954 - 1956).

In 1956 he became a student in the Natural Sciences – Geography Faculty within “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University from Iași (graduated in 1960).

After he graduated the academic studies, he held the assistant function (1960 - 1965) in the Botany Department of the Biology - Geography - Geology Faculty and since 1965 until 1968 he worked as a botanist in the Botanic Garden from Iași. Since 1968 he worked as a Scientifically Researcher in the Geobotany Laboratory within Iași Filial of the Romanian Academy, and since 1976 worked as a Scientifically Researcher in the Biological Research Center from Iași, where he was the Chief of the Terrestrial Ecology collective. As recognition of the value of his research he was invited to keep courses of lectures and research stages in the National Agronomical Institute from Alger (1976-1980) in Systematic Botany, Phytogeography, Vegetal Ecology, General and applied biocoenotics domains. In 1981 - 1989 periods he gave lectures of Systematic Botany, Tropical and Subtropical Flora, Vegetal taxonomy, Photosynthesis and productivity of ecosystems and Environment Protection Fundamentals in the Faculty of Biology. In 1990 - 1992 he hold the Senior Researcher function in the Biological Research Institute from Iași, and in 1992 - 1995 period he hold the Senior Lecturer function within the Vegetal Biology Department of the Faculty of Biology from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Iași. Starting with 1995 year he is a Professor at the same institution.

He holds a PhD diploma in Phytosociology - Mycology since 1971 at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University from Iași. Currently he is Consulting Professor and a PhD coordinator within the Faculty of Biology Iași.

The research activity of Professor Chifu, as reflected by over than 150 published papers and 7 books covers five main directions: mycology and mycocoenology, systematic botany, phytosociology, structure and productivity of ecosystems and nature conservation. In all of these areas he obtained significant results as:

- identification of 700 macromycetes taxa from Moldova and Dobrogea (approximately 50% from all taxa known in Romania);

- discovery of 20 new macromycetes taxa for Romania;
- contributions to the chorology of 2.300 cormophytes taxa (1 new for Romania) and over 300 coenotaxa (47 new for science: *Cembreto - Piceetum abietis* Chifu et al. 1984; *Medicagini - Festucetum valessiaca anthoxanthetosum* Chifu et Ștefan 1978 etc.);

During field and laboratory research activities professor Chifu collected and identified a rich floristic material and initiated a herbarium including vascular plants at the Biological Research Institute. Also he contributed to the enrichment of the herbarium collections from the Biology Faculty Iași (approximate 500 mycological herbarium sheets and 400 vascular plants sheets, inclusive species from Algeria).

He realized documentation trainings in Hungary (1974) and Switzerland (1991). Also, he participated to numerous international scientific meetings: Excursion International de Phytosociologie en Suisse, Geneva (1991); International Excursion of Phytosociology in Apuseni Mountains (1993); Colloque “Végétation et sols de montagnes”, Grenoble - France (1996); II-ème Congrès de la Fédération Internationale de Phytosociologie, Bailleul - France (1997); XXVIII-ème Colloque Phytosociologique, Camerino - Italy (1998) etc. He participated at numerous scientific and didactic excursions in Atlas Mountains (Algeria and Morocco), Sahara Dessert (Algeria), Swiss Alps and French Alps, French Central Massif, North Sea Shore (France), Pyrenees Mountains (Andorra and France), Apennines Mountains (Italy) etc.

He has, also, received multiple grants for research – 50 research grants as responsible or coordinator. Professor Chifu is a distinguished member of the scientific board for journals like: Romanian Journal of Biology – Plant Biology (ex *Révue Roumaine de Biologie, série Biologie végétale*); *Analele Științifice ale Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iași, s.II.a Biologie vegetală*; *Cercetări Agronomice din Moldova*.

Professor Chifu is a founder member of the Romanian Phytosociological Society, Romanian Mycological Society and Gh. Lupascu Foundation for Science and Culture. He is also member in the Ecology Society from Romania, Amicale Internationale de Phytosociologie Society (Bailleul – France) and Association pour l'étude de la végétation (Uppsala - Sweden).

This is the didactic and scientific activity realized in his life by Professor Toader Chifu. Beyond all these important realizations, Professor Toader Chifu is a man with a high moral and professional conduit. All his achievements became possible due to his tenacity, perseverance and passion for botany and also due to his family understanding and support.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary represents a jubilee moment both for professor Chifu, for his family and also for the entire academic community. On the behalf of all the colleagues from the Botanic Garden “Anastasiu Fătu” of Iași, we wish Professor Toader Chifu a long life, good health and all the best for many years to come.

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Constantin MARDARI, Cătălin TĂNASE**