

PROFESSOR CONSTANTIN TOMA AT HIS 80TH ANNIVERSARY



Marking this memorable anniversary is proven to be a very honorable mission but also a very difficult one.

As disciples of the Iași Botany's Magister we are grateful that we had the privilege to be influenced by the fascinating personality of the one who will always remain the **PROFESSOR**. His special mentor endowment marked the student years and the further professional development of many generations that were polished by the clear and precise voice that shined the botany's unknown, by the piercing and determined look, by the distinct attitude always based on the certainty of science. Respected, admired, maybe feared – **Professor Constantin Toma, PhD.** was always and everywhere an imposing figure: in front of the students, in the laboratory, on the field or in the Academy's halls.

The respect for his forerunners, for their work and results was a desideratum that marked the professor's entire professional activity proof of that being his efforts to enforce and consolidate **Plant Morphology and Anatomy School of Iasi**. Far from seeking peace at this venerable age, he uses his knowledge, sharpness of mind and energy to support and coordinate the activity of his followers.

His prodigious activity as born researcher was often evoked with different occasions in which the various areas covered by the Professor were mentioned: histology and compared anatomy, experimental and teratological anatomy, ecological anatomy, blastology, *in vitro* cultures, cytogenetics.

Probably the highest recognition of his scientific merits and not only came in 2012 with his election as full Member of the Romanian Academy. This prestigious distinction crowned the activity of a lifetime rewarded by several orders, medals, diplomas, "Doctor Honoris causa" titles, "Emanoil Teodorescu" prizes, Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy.

The tirelessly work of the distinct professor recently materialized in some bibliographical titles that prove once again the diversity of the approached scientific areas: *Țesuturile secretoare și substanțele volatile din plante / Secretory tissues and volatile substances in plants* (published together with Professor Ioan Burzo in 2012, first edition and in 2013, second edition), *Nume populare românești de plante – expresie a caracterelor lor morfologice și ecologice / Common names of Romanian Plants – expression of their morphological and ecological characteristics* (published together with botanist Angela Toniuc in 2014), *Biologi de altădată și de azi. Portrete. Amintiri. Viață științifică / Biologists of yesterday and today. Portraits. Memories. Scientific life* (published in 2015).

Halophytes: An Integrative Anatomical Study (published together with Marius-Nicușor Grigore, PhD and Associate Professor Lăcrămioara Ivănescu in 2014) is a book of great value emphasized by its publication by the prestigious publishing house Springer.

The richness and depth of a life dedicated to scientific truth are hard to be comprised in just a few words; the only thing remaining is to wish always having the living example of the one to whom everybody wishes **Happy Anniversary PROFESSOR!**

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