

## PROFESSOR PhD TOADER CHIFU AT THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



On February 27, 2016, we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Professor PhD Toader CHIFU, a jubilee moment for the entire academic community as well as for his family. We celebrated a great scientific career, a Professor with high moral and professional standards.

He was born in Târnăuța, (Dorohoi County, nowadays in Ukraine Republic). In 1960 he graduated the Faculty of Natural Sciences-Geography of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iași. After graduation he became assistant professor at Botany Department (1960-1965). In next three years (1965-1968) worked as botanist in the Botanic Garden of Iași, where he organized the Systematic Section. Since 1968 he

was Scientific Researcher in the Geobotany Laboratory of the Romanian Academy (Iași Filial) and since 1976 the Chief of the Terrestrial Ecology Collective in the Biological Research Center from Iași. In 1971 he was awarded with the PhD diploma in Phytosociology-Mycology at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University for the thesis: “*Floristic, ecologic-coenologic and economic research of the macromycetes from Neamțului Depression*”. As a recognition of the value of his research he was invited to hold courses, talks, lectures and research stages in the National Agronomical Institute from Alger (1976-1980). In 1981 he returns to the Faculty of Biology and held courses of Systematic Botany, Tropical and Subtropical Flora, Vegetal taxonomy, Photosynthesis and productivity of ecosystems and Environment Protection. In 1995 he became full Professor at the Faculty of Biology and, currently, he is associate Professor in the same institution.

The research activity of Professor Chifu in domains as mycology, mycocoenology, botany, phytosociology, nature conservation is reflected by over than 180 articles and 10 monographies published. The most remarkable achievements are represented by over 30 coenotaxa new for science and numerous species of fungi and plants new for Romania.

His newest achievement, synthesizing his enormous experience in vegetation classification is the “*Phytosociological diversity of Romania’s vegetation*”, in four volumes, where there are described over 1200 coenotaxa. For this valuable work, he was distinguished with the “Emanoil Teodorescu” Prize of the Romanian Academy. Also, he participated at numerous scientific and didactic expeditions in Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Sahara Dessert etc.) and Europe (Switzerland, France, Andorra, Italy etc). He was responsible or coordinator of more than 50 research grants.

As a recognition of his experience, he is now a distinguished member in the scientific board of numerous prestigious journals and member in many scientific societies from Romania (*Romanian Phytosociological Society*) and abroad (*Amicale Internationale de Phytosociologie* (Bailleul – France) or *Association pour l’étude de la végétation* from Uppsala – Sweden). Also, he attended prestigious international scientific meetings and

conferences, presenting important aspects of Romanian vegetation: Excursion International de Phytosociologie en Suisse; International Excursion of Phytosociology in Apuseni Mountains, Colloque “Végétation et sols de montagnes”, Grenoble – France, II-ème Congrès de la Fédération Internationale de Phytosociologie; XXVIII-ème Colloque Phytosociologique etc.

The passion for fungi, plants and plants communities, his tenacity, and perseverance made him a model and mentor for numerous PhD students, specialists, collaborators and friends. Therefore, on the behalf of all colleagues in the “Anastasiu Fătu” Botanic Garden of Iași, we wish Professor Toader Chifu long years of health, energy to continue his prolific scientific career and all the best for many years to come.

Happy Anniversary!

Constantin MARDARI, Cătălin TĂNASE

