

Professor Vasile CRISTEA at his 70th anniversary

On 5th of January 2019 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of Professor Vasile Cristea, a prestigious personality of Babeş-Bolyai University and Romanian phytosociology, a Professor with a great scientific career and a model for his students and colleagues. It was an occasion for the entire community of botanists to recognize his scientific activity with significant contribution to development of biological sciences in Romania.

Remarkable personality in the field of botany, phytosociology and biodiversity conservation, Professor Vasile Cristea was born on 5th January 1949 in Sibiu. He dedicated his entire scientific and teaching activity to Department of Taxonomy and Ecology within Faculty of Biology and Geology of the “Babeş-Bolyai” University from Cluj-Napoca. He has a degree in *Biology* (1971) and a doctorate in *Geobotany* (1981) for the thesis “*Flora and Vegetation of Secaşelor Plateau*”. He is considered a disciple of Professor Ştefan Csürös and of the academician Nicolae Boşcaiu, a continuer of the tradition of the School of botany and nature conservation founded by Alexandru Borza. Honoring his magisters, he developed this School by inserting new and modern approaches in phytosociological studies and giving it international recognition. In this respect, we highlight the originality of the research on the diversity of vascular flora and vegetation in Transylvania, but also the studies on population ecology of some threatened species or ecological reconstruction and importance of conservation of plant diversity within scientific reserves.

The scientific activity was materialized by publishing more than 130 scientific papers presenting the results of his prolific work on botany, phytosociology and nature conservation. Also Professor Cristea is author or co-author of 12 books (3 were published in Italy), 5 manuals for students and 2 monographies. We emphasize the high scientific value of some monographies and reference volumes synthesizing his enormous experience in botany, vegetation classification and plant communities ecology, as “*The flora and vegetation of the Zarand Mountains*” (1978), distinguished with the Emanoil Teodorescu Award, granted by the Romanian Academy, “*Phytosociology and Romanian Vegetation*” (1993), “*Nature Conservation in Romania*” (1995), “*From biodiversity to GMOs?*” (2004), “*Phytosociology*” (2004), “*Vascular Plants: diversity, systematics, ecology and importance*” (2014) – one of the most comprehensive and actualized books in field of vegetal biology in Romania. He has also focused on some aspects of bioethics and cultural biodiversity in which



particular attention was paid to anthropology and sociology issues correlated with economic problems and with the principles of ecological ethics.

As a recognition of professional experience and of the value of his research he was awarded *Honorary Professor at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University from Iași* (2010) and *Doctor Honoris Causa of Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Timișoara*. Also, he was invited to hold courses and lectures in the University of Camerino (where he held the course of Conservation of nature and resources), and invited professor at the University of Catania, Université Libre de Bruxelles, University of Alicante, etc. He collaborated in many national and international projects with numerous research institutions from Romania, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, etc. By his rigor and tenacity Professor Vasile Cristea gained the respect of his colleagues from the academic community by the results obtained as Head of the Department of Botany, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Geology, General Chancellor and Vice-Rector of the “Babeș-Bolyai” University. He was Director of the “Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden in Cluj-Napoca, being actively involved in *ex situ* conservation of plant species and diversification of the plant collections. In this position he initiated projects of exchanges with plant material and good practices with other similar institutions and collaborated in order to organize the *International Scientific Symposium Conservation of Plant Diversity in situ and ex situ*, in Iași and Cluj-Napoca. Besides this, he also organized numerous national and international conferences, ones of the most prestigious being “*The 5th European Conference on the Conservation of Wild Plants in Europe*” (2007) in collaboration with Plantlife International and Planta Europa and the International Symposium “*Floristic patterns at different organisation and distribution levels*” (2014).

His professional prestige and competence are widely recognized and, consequently, he is a valuable member in the *Association Amicale Internationale de Phytosociologie* (Bailleul – France), member of the *Academia degli Accesi*, (Trento – Italy) and founding member of the *International Academy of Environmental Sciences* (Venice – Italy). He is the president of the *Romanian Society of Phytosociology*, ex vice-president of the *Association of Botanical Gardens from Romania*, member in the *Society of Biological Sciences of Romania*, member in the *Romanian Committee of History and Philosophy of Science*, member in the *Ecology Commission* and member in the *Commission of Nature Monuments* within Romanian Academy. Also Professor Cristea was for a significant time period the president of the *Biology and Biochemistry Commission* within the National Council for Attestation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates.

The whole didactic and scientific activity made Professor Vasile Cristea, at his 70th anniversary, a prestigious model for the entire academic community, students and specialists. On the behalf of all the colleagues from the Botanical Garden “Anastasiu Fătu” of Iași, we wish Professor Vasile Cristea a long life, good health, new accomplishments and all the best for many years to come!

Happy Anniversary!
Constantin MARDARI

“Anastasiu Fătu” Botanic Garden, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași

Cătălin TĂNASE

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Vasile Cristea

PLANTE VASCULARE:
diversitate, sistematică,
ecologie și importanță



Presa Universitară Clujeană

Vasile Cristea
Dan Gafita
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FITOSOCIOLOGIA

