

Professor Bogdan Kuzmanov, DSc (1934–1991): a life dedicated to science

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On April 19th 2004 was marked the 70th anniversary of the birth of the eminent Bulgarian scholar in botanical taxonomy and biosystematics, Prof. Bogdan Kuzmanov, Doctor of Biological Sciences. Thirteen years ago, on December 22nd 1991, death put an abrupt end to his determined creative life at the age of 57, 33 years of which he had dedicated selflessly and with patiently rewarding results to the Institute of Botany with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). Now, over a decade after his death, it is still difficult to speak and write about him in a past tense. With his intensive and organized research work, with his active commitment to topical botanic issues, with his valuable ideas and constructive participation in the scientific life of the Institute, he maintained a convincing personal presence and created a specific atmosphere arousing creative daring, enthusiasm and energy, especially of the younger specialists in their scientific quest and self-establishment. Strict discipline, responsibility and dedication to work, happily combined with many-sided interests and a quick mind were typical of Prof. Kuzmanov. Conversations and scientific discussions with him were interesting and instructive, because he was able as few other scholars could to present and interpret the scientific facts in a boundlessly intriguing way, owing to his vast knowledge, erudition, inborn emotionality and power of speech.

Prof. Bogdan Antonov Kuzmanov was born on 19th April 1934 in Sofia as the fifth (last) child and the only boy to a poor family. In 1957 he complet-

ed his higher education in biology at the Faculty of Biology, Geology and Geography (now the Biological Faculty) of the Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. Already as a member of the students' interest group in plant taxonomy and geography, he showed interest in the Bulgarian vascular flora and actively, fervently and responsibly contributed to the group's work. The research work commenced at the interest group later on grew into his diploma thesis. Prof. Kuzmanov was



Prof. Kuzmanov as a student, 1956

lucky to graduate and later on, after a successfully won competition, to become a regular post-graduate student (1958-1961) under one of the most respected Bulgarian botanical scholars, Academician Daki Yordanov at the BAS, Institute of Botany with Botanical Garden.

In 1961 Prof. Kuzmanov defended with flying colours his *PhD Thesis* entitled “*Monograph on Bulgarian Euphorbia species – taxonomic, ecological – geographical and economic study*”. During the same year he became an Assistant Professor and worked as such

until 1970, when he was elected Associate Professor, at the Taxonomy of Higher Plants Department of the Institute. Already in his post-graduate years, with a good command of the written and spoken English, French and Russian languages, with the self-confidence of a knowledgeable and able ambitious young fellow, Prof. Kuzmanov started a useful correspondence with some prominent scholars in taxonomy, biosystematics and evolution of plants from various countries which he managed to maintain ever more intensively and fruitfully throughout his entire scientific career.



Prof. Kuzmanov was an inspired, persistent and purposeful researcher into the various aspects of botany, to all of which he had contributed heftily. His fundamental and applied scientific researches were aimed at taxonomy, biosystematics (cytotaxonomy, chemotaxonomy, numerical taxonomy),

evolution of the flowering plants, population variability, the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* and the *Flora of Europe*, and at protection of the phytogenefund. The results of his long years of persistent work, his excellent theoretical training, rich experience, wide-ranging interests and profound knowledge had found reflection in his impressive scientific publications: over 250 research papers, reviews, floristic notes, communications (over 50 of which published in prestigious international journals) and over 70 popular-science publications. These results have been quoted over 270 times by Bulgarian and foreign authors.

The scientific work of Prof. Kuzmanov stood out with his exceptionally good knowledge of the Bulgarian angiosperm flora, his in-depth tackling of the problems, precise formulation of the targets and tasks, wide-range application of the modern meth-

ods of research, competent interpretation of the results, and well-grounded inferences and valuable recommendations. His specialization in taxonomy, biosystematics and evolution of flowering plants under prominent world specialists in Poland (1964), England (1970, 1974) and USA – California (1974) underlay Prof. Kuzmanov's research work conducted on a contemporary level. It rendered a further impetus to his forthcoming comprehensive investigations aimed at elucidating the evolutionary strategy of various critical groups of flowering plants in the Bulgarian flora.

Accustomed to consistent and dedicated work, disciplined and responsible in his work, Prof. Kuzmanov did everything according to programme and this was quite understandable considering how time inexorably flows for all of us and notwithstanding of us. The breathless rhythm of his everyday life occasionally disrupted the fulfilment of his creative plans and discipline. Then, contrary to his stereotype, he would undertake some unexpected "out-of-programme" steps with emotionality and impulsiveness so typical of him, flaring out or, as they say, "jumping the rails". He usually got heated and insistent when he was misunderstood, when he wanted to convince us in the correctness of his ideas, or to impose a new and unpopular approach to the decision of a specific scientific problem. But what creative or scientific innovation would have been possible, if man had always kept to the well-beaten tracks? The category of time had some rather specific dimensions in the work of Prof. Kuzmanov refracting the very breathlessness, huge volume and weight of information, and occasionally the almost physical sense of the flowing of time. True to himself,

he permanently hungered for and absorbed ever more knowledge, never tiring throughout his life of trying to score not only scientific but also some cultural accomplishments. Anyone who got in contact with him was impressed by his exceptional industriousness, dedication to science and boundless thirst for knowledge. His vast erudition not only in the field of botany, his wide-ranging and profound knowledge in many other fields of science, the arts and culture were acknowledged and deeply respected by most of us, his colleagues.

Prof. Kuzmanov had his own internal compass for things novel. With genuine curiosity and enthusiasm he





With prof. V. Heywood (England) and prof. V. Velchev (Bulgaria), 1987

accepted the novelties and the new approaches, especially in the botanical science, then trying impatiently and enthusiastically to apply them in his research work. Alone, or in co-authorship with Prof. Stefan Kozuharov, he blazed the trail in such important lines of the Bulgarian botanical science and at the Institute of Botany as karyology, biosystematics (cytotaxonomy, chemotaxonomy), embryology, phytomonitoring, investigation and protection of the medicinal plant resources.

In the field of taxonomy, Prof. Kuzmanov had worked up alone or in various research teams over 1150 species from 180 genera and 19 families of the Bulgarian flowering flora (about one-third of the total number of species in the Bulgarian higher flora). Almost immediately after the defence of his *PhD Thesis* (1962), in appreciation of his abilities, the young research associate Bogdan Kuzmanov was entrusted with working out the genus *Nardurus* (*Gramineae*) for the first volume of the multivolume edition of the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* (1963). In the years to come, the participation of Prof. Kuzmanov in that fundamental edition gradually expanded, as did his responsibilities not only as an author, but also as its editor. In volumes 1-9

he had worked up (alone or in co-authorship) 18 families (entirely or only some of their genera), 105 genera, 380 species, 10 subspecies, 214 varieties, and 80 forms of wild-growing, and 21 genera with 64 species of cultivated plants (including critical groups and genera, chiefly from the families *Cyperaceae*, *Ranunculaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae*, *Caryophyllaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Saxifragaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Convolvulaceae*, and *Papaveraceae*). Particularly impressive was his participation in volume 9 of the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* in which he worked out genus *Mentha* in collaboration with the monographer of that genus, Dr R. Harley. Among the major his achievements in the field of taxonomy were the discovery of a new species to science, new species to the flora of Bulgaria and Turkey, some new intraspecific taxa, and numerous new localities of different species. He prepared taxonomic schemes for a great number of genera and species, suggested new combinations or changes in the classification of many taxa.

Generally, in a cytotoxic aspect (independently or in co-authorship) Prof. Kuzmanov studied out over 410 species of higher plants (about one-fourth of all studied species until the end of 1990) from 228



With his family

genera and 13 families, of which 67 species were studied for the first time, and 383 species were studied for the first time on the Bulgarian populations. He found out and analysed the karyotype of about 300 species of flowering plants of the Bulgarian flora, of which over 60% belonged to family *Asteraceae* (the two subfamilies *Asteroideae* and *Cichorioideae*), about 20% to family *Fabaceae* and *Apiaceae* and from one to six species to other families. By analyzing the chromosome numbers and specificities of the karyotypes, he revealed some important sides of the ecological and genetic differentiation of the investigated species and plant groups, as well as the mechanisms and directions of their evolution.

An enthusiastic supporter of the novel contemporary methods of research, Prof. Kuzmanov took part in the comprehensive working out of 160 species from 20 genera of 9 families of the Angiosperms. With his scholarly instinct and experience, he used to say that it is particularly the application of the comprehensive approach that could lead the researcher to more reliable and definite inferences in the solution of taxonomic problems.

Prof. Kuzmanov's invariable scientific interest in resolving the problems of great and taxonomical-

ly complex plants groups and intensive work of long standing on the representatives of the Bulgarian *Asteraceae* had found most eloquent expression in his *DSc Thesis "Taxonomy and evolutionary Patterns of Bulgarian Asteraceae"* defended successfully in 1985, which earned him the title of Doctor of Biological Sciences. In it Prof. Kuzmanov presented and interpreted the results of his comprehensive research work of 20 years (1965–1985, independently or in collaboration) into 730 taxa of family *Asteraceae* (323 species with 100 subspecies and 131 varieties and forms from 76 genera, of a total of 80 genera for Bulgaria, with 25 subspecies, 82 sections and 5 subsections referred to 8 tribes with 9 subtribes of the two subfamilies *Cichorioideae* and *Asteroideae*). Of these, 70% were diploids and 30% were polyploids. In the *Thesis* he included the results of the cytotaxonomic study of 260 species from about 1100 natural populations and over, considering the fact that 41 species were investigated for the first time. One species and two varieties new to science were discovered. There were two new species found out for the flora of Turkey and one new genus, one species and one subspecies were discovered

for the Bulgarian flora and new taxonomic combinations were created. In the Bulgarian scientific literature there have been an exceptionally small number of such wide-ranging researches, using such a vast number of various methods: comparative morphology, cytotaxonomy, chemotaxonomy, numerical taxonomy, cluster analysis, etc. In 1991 Prof. Kuzmanov published part of his *DSc Thesis* and used the results as a foundation for the development of the forthcoming (after volume 10) volumes of the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria*.

In March of 1991, he was elected Professor.

Prof. Kuzmanov took part (in co-authorship) in the chemotaxonomic and phytochemical studies of 160 species from 20 genera and 9 families (the investigations covered numerous populations from Bulgaria and other countries of Europe, Mongolia and Guinea). A number of chemical compounds had been studied. After the 1970s these investigations had been increasingly resorted to or became the focus in the comprehensive studies of various genera and species of flowering plants, chiefly from *Fabaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Papaveraceae*, *Plantaginaceae*, and *Ranunculaceae* carried out by him.

Besides to the comprehensive studies of *Asteraceae*, Prof. Kuzmanov had significantly contributed to the investigation of the Bulgarian leguminous plants (*Fabaceae*). Independently or in co-authorship, he determined the taxonomic parameters of 98 species, 138 intraspecific taxa (48 subspecies, 90 varieties and 6 forms), created a great number of new combinations, reconfirmed some species for the country. During the cytotaxonomic studies of the family, the chromosome numbers of 73 species from 18 genera had been established, and 16 species were studied for the first time, while another 54 were studied for the first time on Bulgarian populations. Differences were found in the results obtained for some species studied in other countries. The macromolecular compounds (proteins and enzymes) in 51 species from seven genera were investigated and that made possible the elucidation of a number of taxonomic schemes. The comprehensive researches revealed the major trends in the evolutionary strategy of a number of genera of *Fabaceae*. The summarized results of these wide-ranging studies were published in a survey (1978).

Prof. Kuzmanov made valuable taxonomic research of the genera *Chamaecytisus* and *Genista* of tribe *Genisteeae* (*Fabaceae*). He outlined the evolutionary trends of the two genera on the basis of the results of the chemical investigation, in comparison with the morphological characteristics. A good correlation was established between the morphological and chemical data in support of the differentiation of genus *Chamaecytisus* from *Cytisus*. These studies helped prove the taxonomic differentiation of genus *Chamaecytisus* from *Cytisus* as suggested by Rothmaler (1944), assuming that genus *Cytisus* is evolutionary younger.

Genus *Peucedanum* (*Apiaceae*) was also studied comprehensively (morphologically, karyologically – chromosome numbers and specificities of the karyotype, and phytochemically – coumarins, proteins and enzymes). Some important aspects of the evolution and speciation processes in that genus were discovered for Bulgaria and the Balkan peninsula. The main role of polyploidy, chromosome rearrangements, various chemotypes, etc. were also emphasized.

In co-authorship with different specialists, Prof. Kuzmanov did a comprehensive study of genus *Corydalis* (*Papaveraceae*). Its variation was traced out according to 19 morphological parameters. Samples of 76 natural populations were studied chemotaxonomically. Twenty five isoquinoline alkaloids from

five groups were discovered, multiple molecular components of some enzymes (esterase, malatdehydrogenase) and proteins (acid and alkaline): 90 components from 17 natural populations belonging to four species. The results of this wide-ranging investigation were mathematically processed and subjected to cluster analysis. A complex mosaic pattern of the distribution of different chemotypes was outlined within the genus on the territory of Bulgaria. A new taxonomic scheme of the genus was created, with two species and two subspecies each.

An analogically comprehensive approach was applied by Prof. Kuzmanov (in collaboration), while studying the different chemotypes of the medicinal camomile (*Matricaria recutita*). The complicated regularities of their distribution on the territory of Bulgaria were revealed. The investigations into the variation of this species in respect to the morphological and chemical characteristics had practical application in herb gathering and cultivation of medicinal plants in Bulgaria. Similar researches were carried out into some species of the genera *Achillea*, *Artemisia*, *Anthemis*, etc.

By cluster analysis (a team study) were identified the correlations of the data obtained from karyological and chemotaxonomical researches into the Bulgarian species of genus *Achillea* (*Asteraceae*). Differences were found between the species of the morphological complex of *Achillea millefolium* s.l., formerly regarded as one species and erroneously mixed up in herb gathering and phytotherapy, without differentiating them into five species on various ploidy level. The latter was achieved only after that research.

Kuzmanov suggested a new scheme for the two subgenera of *Plantago* in Bulgaria as a result of chemotaxonomical and karyological studies. The main aspects of the generic evolution were pointed out, revealing some significant differences in the evolutionary strategy of the two subgenera. It was established that the evolutionary younger subgenus *Psilium* was more conservative than *Plantago*, in which polyploidy, dispolyploidy and hybridization conditioned the great species diversity, including a number of endemics adapted to specific ecological niches.

A major achievement of Prof. Kuzmanov in the field of chemotaxonomy and phytochemistry are his studies (with different teams) into genus *Thalictrum*. On the basis of his own and literary data (116 species were analysed) it was established that polyploidy in the genus was closely connected to vegetative reproduction

of hemicryptophytes and wind pollination, but without apomixis (expected on the higher ploidy levels). *T. foetidum* was confirmed for Bulgaria, while the two subspecies of *T. minus* cited in volume 4 of the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* were rejected. In some Bulgarian representatives and populations of *Thalictrum* bidimensional isoquinoline alkaloids were found out, including thalicarpine with proved cytostatic effect and great practical application. In co-authorship (1982) a hypothesis was formulated about the dependence of biosynthesis of various alkaloids and the polyploidy level (published in the USA, which met the approval of foreign specialists). According to that hypothesis, the increase of ploidy level of the taxa gave rise to a multiplication in number of alkaloids with increasingly complex structure (bidimensional alkaloids). The results of subsequent investigations into different populations and species of that genus in Poland, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Sweden, and Mongolia, which confirmed the established tendency, verified the advantages and scientific background of that hypothesis.

Prof. Kuzmanov carried out (a team study) some valuable and original investigations into populations of the two species of genus *Glechoma* of the family *Lamiaceae*. The population variability in respect to morphological and anatomical characteristics was traced out. New facts were found out in support of the existing hypothesis about the origin of *G. hederacea* from *G. hirsuta*.

In the 1970s, jointly with Prof. S. Kozhuharov, he introduced for the first time in Bulgaria the embryological approach to the solution of taxonomic problems. During the same time, while working at the Institute of Botany under Prof. Kuzmanov on my *PhD Thesis* on taxonomy and embryology of *Asteraceae* in Bulgaria (subfamily *Cichorioideae*), I had the luck and opportunity to learn from his knowledge and experience, dedication to science, discipline and responsibility in work. Overpowered by the sheer volume of work and the host of technical difficulties arising from the application of the embryological method, I often complained and even shed a tear or two before Prof. Kuzmanov, while he in an attempt to calm me down frequently quoted the prominent Russian physicist Lev Landau: "Sometimes the method is more important than the findings." This further confirmed the conviction that besides all his above-mentioned qualities, Prof. Kuzmanov was also a scholar with a keen sense for experiment and innovation. It is supported by the fact that already in 1968, jointly with

Prof. Kozhuharov, he translated from the English language two extremely valuable books *Variability and Evolution in Plants* by G. Ledyard Stebbins, and later (1972) *Plant taxonomy* by V. H. Heywood. These books contain ample and valuable information on a wide range of questions relating to plant taxonomy, systematics and evolution of higher plants, which makes them still as topical, widely read and useful to all researchers working in the field of botany.

Prof. Kuzmanov published a large number of surveying and thematic articles, especially after the 1970s and 1980s, on important and topical problems and projects, namely on: the taxonomic, biosystematical, karyological and chemotaxonomic researches into the higher flora during different periods and the contribution of Bulgarian botanists to these researches; various projects and publications such as *Flora of Europe*, *Flora of the PR Bulgaria*, *The Red Data Book of PR Bulgaria*, *Chromosome Atlas of the Higher Plants*; the status and prospects of the researches, utilization, protection and mapping out of medicinal plants; the endemic, rare and threatened by extinction species in the Bulgarian flora; problems in the organization of science, etc. With the ample facts and valuable recommendations in them, these publications have played an important role in the enrichment, rationalization and elucidation of the analysed issues and thus have actively contributed to the advancement of the Bulgarian botanical science. They were written in an understandable and often popular language. Thus the author managed to reach as wide a circle of readers as possible, realizing that the problems and the topics discussed should not linger in the closed academic space, nor in the comparatively narrow professional environment of the specialists in botany. Prof. Kuzmanov strove to ensure a wider public resonance for his messages aimed at making a modern science, and especially of his views about the protection of the rare, threatened and medicinal plants. That is why in many of his surveying and thematic publications he presented not only the scientific aspect of the stated topical problems, but also expressed in a popular language his striving to bring about public commitment and activity for their timely and successful solution.

A man of ample knowledge, Prof. Kuzmanov often used to say that criticism in science, as in art, is an "earthquake zone" and its absence indicates that the science is ailing, that it has come to a standstill, while where there is a clash of opinion and different positions expressed, it develops, breaks new ground,

and discovers new truths. He wrote serious and well-grounded critical articles, especially in relation to already implemented important scientific projects, publications, or topical botanic problems. Such an article was “*Flora of the PR Bulgaria: on some problems of the edition*” (1970, in co-authorship). In it Prof. Kuzmanov reviewed the already two published volumes (1963, 1964). He pointed out the mistakes and omissions in these volumes in relation to the nomenclature, description of the species, determination tables, chorology of the species, common names, and illustrations. The main recommendations of the authors were in the direction to greater taxonomic detail. Assessing the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* as the largest project of Bulgarian botany, the authors stated that the article was aimed at avoiding the above-mentioned omissions and mistakes that were chiefly due to the various difficulties encountered by that important project.

In another critical article “Some faults in the publications on medicinal plants” (1986) Prof. Kuzmanov pointed out certain faults and mistakes in five books on medicinal plants published in the period 1981-1983 in relation to the terminology and definitions used in morphology, life forms and taxonomy of some species. In that article he wrote: “Undoubtedly, avoidance of such mistakes in the future editions of these valuable books will improve their quality and provide more precise information both for specialists and for general readers.”

These and other critical articles written by Prof. Kuzmanov, although useful, have probably cast a sceptical shadow on the earlier enthusiasm. However, it is a well-known fact that views and approaches change with time and particularly for that reason Prof. Kuzmanov considered publication of such articles necessary and useful, for they were aimed at preventing the authors from making further omissions and mistakes by nobly prompting them to rationalise and see in a new light the important and topical scientific problems and projects.

Besides in the writing and publication of the multi-volume *Flora of the PR Bulgaria*, Prof. Kuzmanov took an active part in other publications and projects: *Atlas of the People's Republic of Bulgaria* (1973) in which he prepared, in co-authorship, the text and a map of botanical geographic regionalization; *Contemporary Phytotherapy* (1982), a botanical description of more than 250 species of medicinal plants; *Chromosome Atlas of the Higher Plants in Bulgaria* (1993), an over-

view of the karyological data on the Bulgarian species of higher plants up to 1991; *Encyclopedia of Bulgaria* (1982, 1986, 1984, 1988); *Chorological Atlas of the Medicinal Plants in Bulgaria* (1995), worked out 34 medicinal plant species and held membership in the Editorial Board, and other prominent projects and publications.

Already in 1977, Prof. Kuzmanov laid down the main principles and offered valuable recommendations for the preparation of a future Red Data Book of the plants in Bulgaria. He took part in the preparation and publication of the *Red Data Book of the PR Bulgaria*, vol. 1. Plants (1984). In it, with breadth of vision, wide-ranging scientific interests and knowledge so typical of him he developed a number of theoretical and methodological issues on the example of some rare and threatened by extinction plants in the Bulgarian flora. He not only worked out 35 species, but was also one of the editors.

Many of his studies on the medicinal plants, rare, threatened and endemic species were not only theoretical, but directly related to practice: the pharmaceutical industry, environment protection, biodiversity of the Bulgarian flora, protection of the genefund, etc.

Prof. Kuzmanov was very open to collaboration in his work and maintained working partnerships with many scholars and specialists from kindred institutes and institutions in Bulgaria, namely: the Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia – Department of Botany; Institute for Plant Physiology; Institute of Genetics; Institute of Organic Chemistry with a Phytochemistry Centre; Institute of Mathematics and Informatics; Institute of Forestry; Nikola Poushkarov Institute of Soil Studies; Higher Agricultural Institute – Plovdiv (now the Agrarian University); Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, etc. In most collective developments it was Prof. Kuzmanov who set out the tasks, chose the methods of research, maintained a significant personal participation and control of the investigations, as well as a leading and responsible role in the analysis of results and the inferences and recommendations made.

Irrespective of his enthusiasm and love for science, Prof. Kuzmanov often paid attention to its popular aspects. Some 70 popular science articles written by him were dedicated to prominent Bulgarian botanical scholars on the occasion of various anniversaries; beautiful natural highlights in Bulgaria and abroad; participation in important scientific events abroad; some plant phenomena, endemic species, cultivat-

ed plants, etc. He wrote (in co-authorship) the book *1001 Questions and Answers about the World of Plants* brought out after his death (1993). This is a reference book revealing in an entertaining way the stunning diversity of nature, the curious, mysterious and attractive things in it. In the popular science publications one can see not only his rich botanical but also his high general biological culture. They are written in a lively and entertaining manner, in a light and pleasant language and with originality for the reader. Prof. Kuzmanov not only sought in them an external effect, but with some convincing facts and arguments stated the problems in an accessible manner, without being intrusively pretentious and exacting to the audience for which they were intended.

Prof. Kuzmanov participated with enthusiasm and due responsibility in the preparation and successful implementation of all bigger and more important initiatives of the Institute of Botany, or in the scientific events organised by the Institute, and showed special vigour in setting out and discussing the important problems of the botanical science on various levels. Occasionally, he polarised the opinions, when true to his own self, he strove to present and convince the rest in the correctness of his viewpoint, though without bending the facts, but always with an ardent insistence supported by solid arguments. He took a very active part in the collection of material for the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany (SOM) and in the publication of four centuries (№ 5-8: 1962, 1964, 1968).

The prestige, important scientific results and contributions of Prof. Kuzmanov as a scholar-taxonomist and biosystematician were appreciated by the international scientific community. An expression of his high recognition abroad, of his merits to the science of botany was his election as Regional Adviser of the *Flora of Europe* international project (for vol. 2, 1968 jointly with Acad. Nikolai Stoyanov; for vols 3-5, 1972-1980 independently). Prof. Kuzmanov worked independently out *Edraianthus* (*Campanulaceae*), with nine species and four subspecies, for vol. 4 of the *Flora of Europe* (1976). He was invited as a Constituent Member and Member of the International Committee of the Organisation for Plant Taxonomy in the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA) (1975).

The activities and contributions of Prof. Kuzmanov to the protection of rare and threatened species in Bulgaria and Europe found deserved recognition and he worked as regional Adviser for Bulgaria in

the preparation of the Red Data List of the European Flora. He represented Bulgaria in the Organisation of Foreign Botanical Gardens. In appreciation of his scientific achievements, of his valuable ideas and recommendations in the field of biodiversity protection not only in Bulgaria, but also in Europe, he was enlisted as an adviser for Bulgaria in the international publication prepared by OPTIMA: *Medcheck List* for vols 1, 2 & 4 (1984, 1986, 1989).

Besides in the publications, Prof. Kuzmanov reported the results from his research work in papers or at the poster sessions of 25 international symposia, conferences, including two world congresses (the 12th World Congress of Botany, 1975 in Leningrad (St Petersburg), and the 14th World Congress of Botany, 1987 in West Berlin, Germany).

Prof. Kuzmanov engaged in eventful and varied editorial activities. He edited v. 3, 6 and 10 of the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* (jointly with Acad. D. Yordanov and Prof. S. Kozhuharov), and edited alone volumes 7 and 9. Prof. Kuzmanov was also one of the editors of the *Red Data Book of the P. Bulgaria*, vol. 1-Plants (1984). For many years he used to work in a dedicated and responsible way as member of the Editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the Institute of Botany* (since 1972) and *Fitologiya* scientific journal (member of the Editorial Board and Editor-in-Chief since 1973 and until the end of his life). He held membership in the editorial boards of many other scientific publications of the Institute of Botany: *Collective Works in memory of Acad. Daki Yordanov* (1975); *Evolution of Flowering Plants and Florogenesis* (1978, 1991); *Proceedings of the 3rd and 4th National Conference of Botany* (1983, 1987), etc.

Prof. Kuzmanov was an active member and part of the management board of the Bulgarian Botanical Society, an active participant in its sessions, responding to them with interesting and topical scientific contributions. For over a decade Prof. Kuzmanov held membership in the Specialised Scientific Council of Botany with the Higher Academic Commission and was its Secretary and frequent reviewer, whose constructive criticism and well-intentioned and competent recommendations had helped the advancement of many young research associates. He was also member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

For many years (since 1974 with short interruptions) Prof. Kuzmanov headed the Introduction and Useful Plants and Comparative Anatomy, Morphology and Embryology of Plants departments at the Institute of Botany.

As a part-time professor of long standing, Prof. Kuzmanov delivered specialised courses for the 4th and 5th-year students of the Biological Faculty of the St K. Ohridski University of Sofia: “Genefund and protection of medicinal plants” and “Taxonomy and evolution of higher plants.” His lectures were on a high scientific level and he presented the information in an interesting, lively and intriguing way, thanks to his rich experience, varied knowledge and emotional charge.

Prof. Kuzmanov dedicated much effort and energy to the training of young specialists and research associates. He tutored three post-graduate students (including two foreigners), who defended successfully their theses, and 10 graduates with the Department of Botany of the Biological Faculty of the St K. Ohridski University of Sofia. In cooperation with him, many young specialists registered for the first time their presence in the field of botanical science.

Prof. Kuzmanov also delivered lectures as invited lecturer by foreign universities and scientific institutions: the Free University and Botanical Institute, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany (December 1979) – “On rare and threatened plants in the Bulgarian flora”; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (December 1985, June 1991) – “Studies of Bulgarian botanists into the flora of Greece”, “Speciation centres and endemism in the Bulgarian flora”, “The role of polyploidy in the evolution of the Bulgarian angiosperm flora”; University of South Australia and Botanical Gardens in Adelaide, Australia (April 1990) – “Composition and origin of the Bulgarian angiosperm flora”.

Prof. Kuzmanov was a scholar of never-dying enthusiasm, who loved nature, was curious about its mysteries, and was committed to its protection. He was highly exacting both to himself and to the colleagues he worked with, and showed concern for every contribution to the protection of the richness of Bulgarian flora. Everyone who communed with him valued him not only as a vigorous, purposeful and organized person, but also as an inventive experimenter, as thoughtful and knowledgeable researcher. Irrespective of all good words about the life and work of Prof. Kuzmanov, surely some would say that, “Many names and bouts of eternal glory the years would erase without pity...” We, his colleagues-botanists, do not agree with such a verdict, for in our work we often directly communicate with the extensive scientific heritage of reviews, thematic and critical articles, communications, studies, popular-science publications, numerous developments in the volumes of

the *Flora of the PR Bulgaria* left by Prof. Kuzmanov, and every reference convinces us again and again in their merits and input.

The example of Prof. Kuzmanov’s life totally and authoritative dedicated to science, the rich scientific heritage left by him, have won him a deserved place as one of the most enthusiastic, tireless and knowledgeable scholars, with significant contributions to botanical science.

Publications of Prof. Dr Bogdan Kuzmanov:

1961–1997

1961

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