

## Prof. Ivan Andreev Bondev

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November 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 will mark five years since the death of Prof. Ivan Bondev. For over 40 years he had worked actively and selflessly for the development and advancement of phytocoenology, phytoecology and botanical mapping at the Institute of Botany with BAS and for over 17 years he had taught and headed the Ecology and Environment Protection Chair at the Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. His scientific achievements, scientific organisational work and especially his small- and large-scale geobotanical maps had brought him great prestige and popularity, both in Bulgaria and abroad.

Prof. Ivan Bondev was born on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1927 in the town of Belitsa, Sofia district. He finished secondary school in 1946 in the town of Razlog. In 1952 graduated from the Faculty of Biology, Geology and Geography of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia as a biologist and botanist. After a successful competition in 1953, he commenced regular post-graduate studies at the Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). In 1957 Bondev defended his *PhD Thesis* on the subject *Vegetation of the high-altitude Ibur ridge in the Eastern Rila Mts.*

From 1958 to 1967 he worked as a Research Associate and from 1968 onwards as a Senior Research Associate at the Phytoecology and Geobotany Department of the Institute of Botany, BAS. In 1982 he was elected Professor in Ecology. In 1975 and until his retirement Bondev worked as Associate Professor, Full Professor and Head of the Ecology and Environment Protection Department



**Prof. Bondev**  
as a university student,  
1952.

at the Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. In the course of two years, from 1989 to 1992, he was Deputy Director of the Institute of Botany with Botanical Garden, BAS. He specialized for one year (1960) in geobotanical mapping at the Institute of Botany of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg (Leningrad).

In the course of his approximately 40-year-long career in the field of scientific research Prof. Bondev published over 180 scientific articles, one invention and more than 65 popular-science articles. His scientific developments, inventions,

studies, and monographs analyse some important problems in the domain of contemporary phytoecological researches, which could be grouped conditionally along five major and closely interrelated lines:

1. Geobotanical (phytocoenotic) studies with geobotanical mapping.
2. Floristic studies and biological diversity.
3. Studies into the primary biological productivity and energy resources of the natural forest and grasslands.
4. Studies into the turnover of substances and the content of major macro- and microelements and heavy metals.
5. Pedagogical and editing work (He engaged in the training and qualification upgrading of university students and young specialists and worked as Editor-in-Charge and Member of the Editorial Board of various BAS printed series and as Member of the International Editorial Board of the *Map of the Natural Vegetation of Europe*).



**Excursion in the Ukrainian Carpathians, 1960**  
(first from the left).



**At lake Doiran, 1963**  
(from left to right: Velcho Velchev, Slavcho Ganchev,  
Ivan Bondev, Ivan Ganchev).



**In Dubrovnik, 1963**  
(first from the left).

His specialization in 1960 in St Petersburg under the prominent Russian scientist, Academician V. Sochava, played a vital role in the formation of Prof. Bondev as a researcher and specialist in geobotanical mapping.

He quickly and successfully applied all the newly mastered methods and knowledge in the organisation of wide-scale geobotanical researches in Bulgaria and for summarising the scientific results obtained in the different regions of the country. Under his guidance a scientific classification of the vegetation in Bulgaria was made, as well as a key of mapping units for the universal and fundamental geobotanical maps. In 1973 the first such map was printed in the *Atlas of the P.R. Bulgaria* and played a vital part in the ecological evaluation of the lands in Bulgaria, in forestry and agriculture, in the training of students in ecological lines, etc. The large-scale (1:600 000 in 1991) universal geobotanical map with 150 mapping units made subsequently by Prof. Bondev for the first time in Bulgaria was of major scientific and practical significance for the country. Particularly valuable in it was the multipurpose information about the succession processes and interrelations, modes of growth of the secondary formations, the objectives of zonal distribution of xerothermic vegetation in Bulgaria, as well as the explanatory text to the map.

The geobotanical maps (1:1 000 000 in 1973 and 1:600 000 in 1991) developed by Prof. Bondev feature at the same time the primary (potential) and the secondary (derivative) vegetation and its interrelations, while the 1:1 500 000 map published in the 1980 Atlas (military) featured only the potential vegetation.

Prof. Bondev created original legends to his geobotanical maps on the basis of ecological typological and dynamic principles, with concentrated information about the vegetation cover that is of great scientific and applied worth. Prof. Bondev's geobotanical maps are very useful and highly sought in Bulgaria and abroad by various specialists in the natural sciences.

Highly important for the country, as well as for the interrelation of vegetation with the neighbouring territories, for the status, structure and functioning of the ecosystems, etc. are the geobotanical vegetation maps developed by Prof. Bondev for some of the former administrative regions (28), for some natural reserves, protected territories and especially the maps of xerothermic vegetation (Steppe Vegetation, Mediterranean Vegetation, Submediterranean Vegetation, etc.).



Excursion in the Rila Mts, 1976 (first from the right).

In the development of geobotanical maps and in many of his other developments Prof. Bondev applied phytocoenological characteristics (composition, structure and status of the studied communities) backed up by relevant ecological analyses and conclusions. For instance, he elucidated the phytocoenological composition, structure and distribution of the oak forests in North Bulgaria, formerly regarded predominantly as *Quercetum mixtum*; the phytocoenological characteristics and distribution of the species of genus *Fagus*; the ecological and biological specificities and phytocoenological characteristics of *Astragalus aitosisensis*, etc.

A number of geobotanical maps created by Prof. Bondev underlay the botanical and geographical division of the country into regions (published in the *Physical Geography of Bulgaria* in 1989), landscape studies, forestry, prognostication of vegetation changes, various problems relating to the evaluation, management and protection of vegetation resources, etc.

Prof. Bondev's achievements in vegetation mapping were held in high esteem by the leading European specialists in that field and he took part in two international projects: *Map of the Vegetation of Eastern Europe* and *Map of the Natural Vegetation of Europe*.

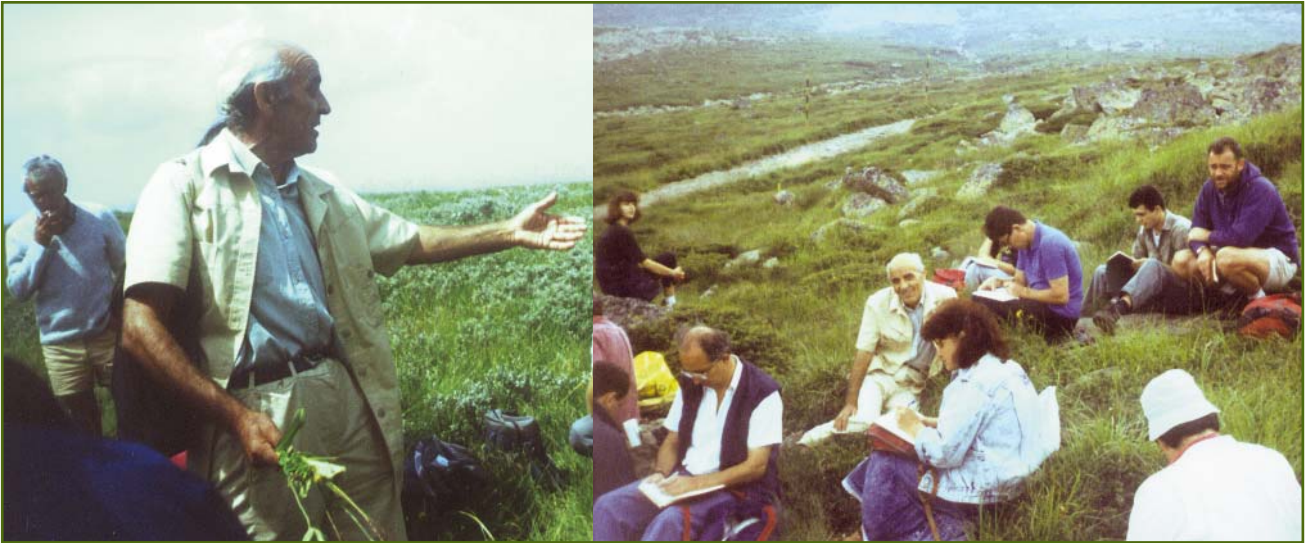
Prof. Bondev belonged to those geobotanists who engaged in a wide range of the contemporary ecological, phyto-

coenotic and floristic studies. Particularly important are his floristic studies (over 40 scientific articles) related to biological diversity. He contributed significantly to the creation of a new taxonomic scheme of genus *Quercus* in Bulgaria and considered in quite a novel way such species as: *Q. petraea*, *Q. dalechampii*, *Q. longipes*, *Q. polycarpa*, *Q. brachyphylla*, and *Q. virgiliana*. He discovered an oak species new to science: *Q. mestensis* Bond. & Gančev. He also described a new variety and eight new forms of various oak species. Some important hybridisation processes were detected in the groups of *Q. polycarpa*, *Q. frainetto*, *Q. dalechampii*, *Q. erucifolia*, *Q. pedunculiflora*. Twenty-five new for the country species, four genera and one species considered extinct on global scale had been discovered, as well as new locations of over 250 species in Bulgaria, etc.

Prof. Bondev engaged in a number of studies into the structure of primary biological productivity, energy resources and efficiency of primary forests and grasslands, proposing as a result various measures for optimum utilisation, prognostication, protection, and improvement of primary biological productivity. Along these lines, he published in co-authorship over 14 scientific articles related to the xerothermic systems in Bulgaria that claim or that used to claim over 60% of the territory of the country. Some relevant analyses and conclusions were made on the primary production, energy resources and especially on the efficiency of vegetation in comparison to the well-known biological classifications, concerning the degree of effective use of solar energy in the var-



At a symposium in Prague.



Excursion in Mt Vitoshka with members of the Phytocoenological Society, 1994.

ious types of ecosystems. The efficiency of the natural forest oak communities was found to exceed the average values under the Russian five-point classification, etc.

Equally important are his studies into the content of major biogenic elements and the turnover of substances. Some objectives in the extraction and accumulation of N, P and K in the various fractions of the phytomass have been discovered, as well as in the mesoxerothermic forest and grassy communities with various edificators and dominants. The interrelation with soil-formation processes, etc. was registered too. Some developments touch on questions relating to pollution and the impact of heavy metals on the formation of primary biological production. Other major

monographic works are: *Edificators and dominants in the vegetation of Bulgaria*, which presents an analysis of over 270 types of edificators and 615 dominants and their distribution into vegetation belts; *Primary and secondary vegetation in Bulgaria and its mapping, anthropogenic changes in the vegetation of the Bulgarian mountains*, etc.

Prof. Bondev dedicated much efforts, knowledge and experience to the organisation of comprehensive ecological studies and research into the main ecological systems in Bulgaria. He headed the *Comprehensive ecological studies in the region of the Third Metallurgical Works near Debelt village, Bourgas district* project, implemented in two stages (and with a team of 100 workers); *Coordination programmes under the Scientific Research Council with the Ministry of Education and Science* unifying over 13 comprehensive ecological themes, etc. A long-term (until 2010) ecological prognostication programme was developed under his guidance. Prof. Bondev was Secretary of the Coordinating Scientific Council for Problem III of the former CMEA: *Protection of the Ecosystems and Landscape*. He was member of the Council for Environmental Protection and Regeneration with the State Council, etc. He and his team developed *Methods for introduction of Camomile into the tobacco plantations*. Prof. Bondev obtained an author's certificate for his innovatory method for gathering of Camomile.



Always a pleasant company.

He took part in the development of landscape structuring plans for the Rila and Pirin Mts and the Balkan Range, jointly with teams from the Higher Institute for Architecture and Building in Sofia.

Elected a Head of the newly-established Department of Ecology and Environment Protection, Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, Prof. Bondev dedicated much effort, knowledge and skills to organise the work in the Chair, so as to make it meet the contemporary requirements and trends. Along with this, in a very short time he managed to establish himself as a good organiser, teacher and chief of the Chair headed by him in a course of 17 years. He delivered lectures in the main courses of the Chair: Basics of Ecology, Environment Protection, Biogeography, and in the specialised course Bioproductivity, Energetics and Turnover of the Substances in the Ecosystems. With his scientific papers at various forums on different levels Prof. Bondev contributed greatly to the development of ecological education in Bulgaria. He was an active participant in the establishment of the Unified System for Ecological Education, Upbringing and Culture in Bulgaria. He tutored five post-graduate students and over 20 graduating students, specialising post-graduates, consultants, etc.

Prof. Bondev took a very active part in various scientific forums organised in Bulgaria. For a long time he was Deputy Chairman of the Specialised Council of Botany with the Higher Attestation Commission. For two years he chaired the Economic and Technical Problems Council on Environment Protection of the Union for Science and Technology in Bulgaria. He edited a number of collective works *Red Data Book of the People's Republic of Bulgaria* (1984), took part in the Chief Editorial Board – the editorial body for vol. I, “Plants”, in the editorial body of the *Ecology, Meadows and Pastures in Bulgaria* series, was Editor-in-Charge of the *Chorological Atlas of Bulgarian Medicinal Plants*, member of the editorial board of the two-volume edition with a map of the vegetation in Europe, etc.

For his active scientific, teaching and organisational work Prof. Bondev was awarded with many orders (four) and medals (10), such as the Order of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Cyril and Methodius Order, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, etc.

His death deprived botanical science of a tireless researcher and champion of the modern ecological studies in Bulgaria.

## List of the scientific publications of Prof. I. Bondev

### 1. Geobotanical (phytocoenotic) studies with geobotanical mapping

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