

Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Draganov: congratulations for 80th birthday

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Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Yordanov Draganov was born on 10th January 1932 in the village of Emen. He graduated in biology at the Faculty of Biology, Geography and Geology (1956) and obtained a second degree in scientific information at the faculty of Philosophy and History (1968) at Sofia University. Once concentrated on botany during the second year of his studies, he devoted all his life to this branch of science. Although generally known as algologist, he has always maintained a wide-ranging interest in general botany and high erudition on other botanical subjects (fungi, crypto- and phanerogams, their life, evolution and distribution). At first, Stefan Draganov held the post of Assistant Professor in Botany at the Pharmaceutical Faculty (1956) and only then he obtained the position of a Regular Assistant Professor at the Department, known today as the Department of Botany. He climbed all professional steps from Assistant Professor (1959) to Senior Assistant Professor (1964), Main Assistant Professor (1966) and finally to Associated Professor (1981). Subsequently, he became the first lector of botany in the present Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen. He had a year of sabbatical (1965–1966) at the Leningrad State University and at the Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Leningrad.



Since 1970 S. Draganov had taught the basic course on algae, fungi and lichens for different specializations at the Faculty of Biology, as well as other special courses (e.g. algology, introduction in lichenology, natural resources) for students in botany and hydrobiology. He tutored several graduate and two post-graduate students. Most of them embarked on careers in phycology, or in other academic fields. S. Draganov is an author and co-author of more than 50 significant publications in algology and of three new species from Bulgarian soil (*Cylindrospermum dobrudjense*, *Aulosira valkanovii* and *Calothrix holterbachii*). He was member and then Secretary of

the Editorial Board of the Botanical Series of the *Annual of Sofia University* and worked there until the time of his retirement. He is member of the Bulgarian Botanical Society, Bulgarian Society for Soil Studies, Bulgarian Naturalist Society, Society of Scientists of Bulgaria (former Union of Scientific Workers), and of the International Association of Soil Studies. For his life-work, Assoc. Prof. Dr Ste-

fan Draganov was conferred the Honourable Sign of Sofia University.

The editorial board of *Phytologia Balcanica* joins the Department of Botany of Sofia University and all students of Assoc. Prof. Stefan Draganov in their congratulations and best wishes for his 80th birthday. We wish him many happy returns!
