

IN MEMORIAM**Professor Dr sc. Nat., Dr h.c. Asuman Baytop (1920–2015)**

Prof. Asuman Baytop passed away peacefully on 18 February 2015 at her home in Maltepe, Istanbul. I am honoured to have kept in correspondence with her until she was 95. After graduating in 1943 from the School of Pharmacy, Istanbul University she joined the Faculty of Science as an assistant to Prof. Alfred Heilbronn. Her doctoral degree was obtained in Zürich. In 1964 she became director of the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany at Istanbul University and her early researches were on pharmacognosy. She created an excellent herbarium at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Istanbul University (ISTE), contributing some 23,300 specimens collected personally or with co-collectors from the staff. Naturally there was an emphasis on Turkish medicinal and useful plants from the European as well as the Anatolian part – the families Apocynaceae, Papaveraceae, Solanaceae and Gramineae were particularly studied.

Volume 8 of *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands* was dedicated to her and to her late husband, Prof. Dr Turhan Baytop in recognition of their extensive studies on the Turkish flora over many years. *Allium baytopiorum*, *Colchicum baytopiorum*, *Crocus baytopiorum*, *Galium baytopiorum* and *Stachys baytopiorum* are some of the plants named in their honour. *Crocus asumaniae* and Rosa ‘Asuman’ are two taxa named after her alone. The latter is a morphotype of a fragrant double white-flowered cultivar of *Rosa beggeriana* which originates from old roses once cultivated in gardens of Central and East Anatolia and now gradually disappearing when the gardens are neglected and abandoned.

Besides research on the Turkish flora, Asuman Baytop also taught students in the Faculty of Pharmacy, supervised doctoral candidates, published several textbooks, laboratory manuals, herbarium catalogues, prepared an anatomical atlas for identifying medicinal plants, became the active chief editor of the Faculty’s Journal, wrote the biographies of important plant collectors in Turkey from the 16th century on, collected plants and recorded their vernacular names during her travels, and looked after her own garden.

After her retirement in 1987, as professor emerita, she devoted herself to research on the history of botany in Turkey; her studies over the last 20 years resulting in over 50 papers which were eventually collated and published as a voluminous tome in 2003, with a second enlarged edition the following year.

She was indefatigable! It is said that taxonomists never die, they only fade away. Surely Asuman Baytop is a flower that will never fade. She is survived by her daughter Professor Dr Feza Günergün, head of the Department for History of Science at Istanbul University.



Asuman Baytop at home (photo taken in May 2009).



Rosa ‘Asuman’, with milky white petals and staminodes, sometimes suffused palest pink (described by Kit Tan and J. Zieliński in 2010).

Kit Tan

Institute of Biology, University of Copenhagen
Øster Farimagsgade 2D, DK-1353 Copenhagen K Denmark

In Remembrance of a Great Colleague and Friend ...

It is with great sadness that on August 22th, 2014 we lost
 PROF. DR. LILYANA YURUKOVA.

DR. YURUKOVA was a professor at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (ex Institute of Botany), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, and has been an active and valuable member of the biological scientific community in Bulgaria. She will be greatly missed by family, friends, and colleagues.

Lilyana Yurukova was born 27 May 1949 in Sofia, Bulgaria. She received Ph.D. in 1986 in the field of Ecology and Ecosystem Protection. In 1972 she became a chemist at the Institute of Botany, in 1977 a leader of the Analytical laboratory, in 1987 a research fellow, in 1996 associate professor and in 2012 professor. She also held teaching position at Plovdiv University since 1994.

Prof. Yurukova was an editor of Section Environmental Contamination – Ecosystems in *Quintessence*, USA. She had been an active member in several professional groups including Bulgarian Phytocoenological Society, INTECOL (International Association for Ecology), EURASAP (European Association for the Science of Air Pollution), Bulgarian branch of IHSS (International Humic Substances Society) and IAD (International Association for Danube Research).

She was regular reviewer of articles in 11 international journals (*Atmospheric Pollution*, *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, *Water, Soil and Air Pollution*, *Science of the Total Environment*, etc.).

Her commitment and contribution to the European moss survey (UNECE ICP Vegetation) was acknowledged.

Prof. Yurukova was an organizer of schools on biomonitoring in 2 colleges and 1 university in Northeastern Greece in the period 2009–2012.

She published numerous journal articles, book chapters and reports, being co-author and author of 170 publications. During the last 15 years Prof. Yurukova has worked on 23 projects. She supervised 11 M.Sc. and 5 Ph.D. students.

Prof. Yurukova's work on the biomonitoring was distinguished by enormous breadth and scope. She has made basic contributions to understanding the pollution monitoring with mosses, lichenicolous fungi, macromycetes, vascular plants, animal tissues and organs, as well as to ecotoxicological effects of heavy metals and toxic elements in edible mushrooms and bee products.

As her Ph.D. student, colleague and friend I would like to note that she was an exceptional teacher and devoted researcher. Lilyana Yurukova was one of the most courageous, inspiring and stimulating people ever.



Prof. Lilyana Yurukova, Ph.D. (1949–2014)
 (photo D. Ivanova)

Gana Gecheva
 Department of Ecology and Environmental
 Conservation, Faculty of Biology, University of
 Plovdiv, 24 Tzar Assen Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Pavel Dragomirov Vassilev (1933–2014)

Bulgarian botanist, our colleague and friend,
PAVEL DRAGOMIROV VASSILEV, died on 27th December 2014.
His creative life was spent chiefly at the Institute of Botany with the
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.



Pavel Dragomirov Vassilev
(1933–2014)

He was born on 4th July 1933, in Sofia. Vassilev graduated from the Agronomical Faculty of the Higher Institute for Agriculture in 1957. In 1959 he obtained a second higher education in biology at the Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. Between 1960 and 1966 he worked at the Institute of Genetics and Selection with BAS. In 1966 Vassilev came to work at the Institute of Botany with BAS and stayed as a research associate there until his retirement.

Pavel Vassilev's research work was related to investigation of the natural flora and natural plant communities in Bulgaria. Various representatives of rare plant species were object of his attention and some of them were discovered by him for the first time in Bulgaria. He analyzed their distribution, biological and ecological specificities, measures needed for their protection. However, most of his research efforts were aimed at the plant communities in different parts of Bulgaria. He laid a special emphasis on the phytocoenological characteristics of the protected nature territories, such as Ostritsa Reserve, Ropotamo Nature Park, Tisasta, Silkossiya, Orelyak, Boraka and other reserves.

Pavel Vassilev took an active part in the large-scale projects of the Institute of Botany, namely in "Mapping the vegetation cover of Bulgaria", *Red Data Book of Bulgaria*, *Atlas of Bulgarian Endemic Plants*, conceptual reports for the various state authorities, etc. He penned more than 90 popular science and scientific articles. Pavel Vassilev worked with great competence, love and persistence, with great conscientiousness too. These qualities won him the respect and trust of all his colleagues.

Pavel left rich and bright memories among his coworkers.

We shall never forget his great character and kindness.

May his memory live forever!

Tenyo Meshinev

Department of Plant and Fungal Diversity and
Resources, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Prof. DSc Dimitar Petrov Terziiski (1932–2015)

Prof. DSc. Dimitar Terziiski, a prominent Bulgarian scientist in botany and embryology, passed away on 14 March 2015.



Prof. Dimitar Petrov Terziiski, DSc (1932–2015)

With a lifetime of more than four decades he was dedicated to science especially higher agronomical education. He was a man of great erudition and culture and an honoured name in botanical science.

He was born on 7th October 1932 in Dolno Ozirovo village, Montana district. In 1960 he graduated from the Agronomy Faculty of the Higher Agricultural Institute in Sofia. After a successful competition, he was appointed as a regular Assistant Professor at the Department of Botany of the Agricultural Institute and began to work in the scientific field of plant embryology. At the end of 1970 he acquired his PhD as a regular PhD student at the Laboratory for Remote Hybridization of the Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. After that he continued his work at the Department of Botany of the Agricultural Institute, and in 1974 he became Associate Professor. When the Agronomy Faculty moved to Plovdiv in 1975, D. Terziiski continued with his research and teaching at the Department of Botany of the Agrarian University in Plovdiv.

His scientific interest and work in members of the Legume family resulted in a DSc Thesis, “*Biosystematic and Agrobio-logical Study of the Bulgarian Representatives of Genus Vicia L.*” which was successfully defended in 1986 with the award of the academic degree Doctor of Biological Sciences.

Prof. Terziiski has lectured on Botany, Anatomy and Morphology of Plants and Plant Systematics to students and has taught thousands of agronomists and engineer-agronomists; he has supervised graduates in plant cytology, anatomy and embryology. He has produced more than 90 scientific papers, 12 textbooks and manuals, popular science articles related to topical problems in the field of botany and higher education.

His scientific, creative, teaching and public activities have secured him an honorable place in Bulgarian botanical and agronomical science. As an eminent specialist on plant embryology, he has left an indelible mark, with scientific results that have been and still are used by all whose avenue in scientific research is botany, and especially embryology and taxonomy.

We are left with the memory of the scientist, colleague and good friend who will be missed.

Ana Petrova

Department of Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences