

IN MEMORIAM**Britt Snogerup
(1934 – 2023)**

Dr Britt Snogerup passed away on 4th November 2023 after a short illness, aged 89. She was the last of the founding members of a Swedish group of botanists from the University of Lund who began field work in the Aegean area more than 60 years ago with the purpose of studying evolution and speciation. The

project was started by Hans Runemark in 1957. In the following year he was joined by Britt and Sven Snogerup, and in the nineteen sixties and early seventies a somewhat larger team developed with participants such as Bengt Bentzer, Roland von Bothmer, Lennart Engstrand, Mats Gustafsson and Arne Strid.



An international group of botanists at Kalogria (NW Peloponnisos) — Standing from left: Walter Gutermann, Dimitrios Christodoulakis, Per Lassen, Thomas Raus, Sven Snogerup, Gert Vold, Nick Turland. In front from left: Britt Snogerup, Kit Tan, Jerzy Zieliński (photo taken by Arne Strid on 2 May 1995).

Britt made lasting contributions to taxonomy and phytogeography both in Scandinavia and Greece. Her PhD thesis was a study of the genus *Odontites* in NW Europe. She was co-author of c. 25 publications on the Greek flora, usually written together with her husband Sven (1929–2013). They include important papers such as:

- Snogerup, S. & Snogerup, B.** 1987. Repeated floristic observations on islets in the Aegean. – *Bot. Not.*, **155**(1-4): 143-164.
- Snogerup, S. & Snogerup, B.** 1991. Flora and vegetation of the island of Agios Evstratios, Greece. – *Bot. Chron. (Patras)*, **10**: 527-546.
- Snogerup, S. & Snogerup, B.** 2001. *Bupleurum* L. (*Umbelliferae*) in Europe. 1. The annuals, *B.* sect. *Bupleurum* and sect. *Aristata*. – *Willdenowia*, **31**(2): 205-308.
- Snogerup, S., Snogerup, B., Phitos, D. & Kamari, G.** 2001. The flora of Chios island, Greece. – *Bot. Chron. (Patras)*, **14**: 5-197.
- Snogerup, S. & Snogerup, B.** 2004. Changes in the flora of some Aegean islets 1968–2000. – *Pl. Syst. Evol.*, **245**(3-4): 169-213.
- Snogerup, S., Snogerup, B., Stamatiadou, E., Bothmer, R.v. & Gustafsson, M.** 2006. Flora and vegetation of Andros, Kikladhes, Greece. – *Ann. Musei Goulandris*, **11**: 85-270.

Britt and Sven Snogerup had a happy and long-standing cooperation with several Greek botanists, notably Dimitrios Phitos, Georgia Kamari, Dimitrios Tzanoudakis and Dimitrios Christodoulakis at the University of Patras, and with Elli Stamatiadou, a well-known plant collector at the Goulandris Natural History Museum in Kifissia, Athens. Both were active members of the Lund Botanical Society; they helped organize, i.a., the society's trips to Karpathos in 2004 and to Crete in 2008 and edited reports from those excursions (see *Bot. Not.*, 2005, **138**: 27-38 and 2009, **142**: 1-6).

As from 1989 Britt made an important contribution to the Flora Hellenica Database by carefully and critically registering practically all the holdings of Greek specimens in the Lund Botanical Museum, both old and recent (c. 113,000 numbers in all). Herbarium LD is

rich in Greek material from the “golden age” including many types, gathered by Heldreich, Orphanides, Sintenis, Bornmüller, Dörfler, Baldacci and others. These collections were acquired mainly by Svante Murbeck, an outstanding taxonomist with good international contacts who was director for a long period in the early 20th century. He may best be known for his monumental monograph of the genus *Verbascum*.

Flora Aegaea (1944) by the Vienna botanist Karl Heinz Rechinger was an inspiration for Runemark and the Snogerup couple when starting their studies in this area. Rechinger had old connections to Lund. His father was also a botanist and a friend of Murbeck. Towards the end of the First World War, when living conditions in Vienna were difficult, the young Karl Heinz spent some time as a *Kriegskind* with “uncle Svante” in Lund, earning his first money at the age of 12 by mounting herbarium specimens. Rechinger and the Snogerups retained friendly relations until his death in 1998.

Britt and Sven Snogerup were an inseparable team for more than 50 years and most of their scientific work was done together. In Scandinavia they participated for a long period in the monitoring of flora and plant communities of Peberholm, an artificial island created in 1995–1999 from excavated sea-floor material as part of the construction of the Øresund bridge connecting Copenhagen and Malmö – see <https://doi.org/10.1111/njb.03721>.

In their free time they were active in sports, notably orienteering. From around 2008 Sven's health deteriorated and his final years were difficult, both for him and for Britt who patiently and unselfishly looked after him. After his death in 2013, Britt continued being an active member of the Lund Botanical Society and from time to time did voluntary work at the Botanical Museum. She was not only a prominent botanist, but also a kind and gentle person and a friend of Greece. Only a couple of months before her death the remaining members of the “Aegean gang” met in her home and were served excellent μουςακάς. She will be fondly remembered.

Arne Strid

Bakkevej 6, DK-5853 Ørbæk, Denmark