

**IN MEMORIAM****Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Yordanov Draganov, PhD  
(10.01.1932–08.02.2024)**

On February 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, just a month after he turned 92, we lost our colleague and long-time teacher at the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, Assoc. Prof. Stefan Draganov, specialist in algology.

He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1932 in the village of Emen, Veliko Tarnovo district, where he completed his primary education. Subsequently, he finished the St St Cyril and Methodius Male Grammar School in Veliko Tarnovo.

He graduated in Biology at the Biological, Geological and Geographical Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia (1956), entered the Pharmaceutical Faculty of the Medical University in Sofia, and since 1959 worked at the Department of Botany, Biological Faculty of Sofia University.

He worked in the domain of algae – soil algae, blue-green algae - and published a number of scientific works related to their study. In 1979, he defended his PhD Thesis entitled *Blue-Green Algae in the Soils of North Bulgarian Forest-Steppe Zone*.

Dr Stefan Draganov contributed as coauthor to the first *Flora of Bulgaria. Algae* (1971), and also wrote some practical guidebooks for students. He taught Lower Plants to generations of biologists and supervised students sitting for their diplomas and doctoral theses. He took part in a number of national and international scientific conferences, symposia and congresses. For many years, Dr Stefan Draganov had been member and Secretary of the Editorial Board of the Annual of Sofia University, Botany Volume - a position he kept until the year of his retirement.



He was also member of the Bulgarian Botanical Society, Bulgarian Society for Soil Studies, Bulgarian Naturalist Society, Society of Scientists of Bulgaria, and of the International Association of Soil Studies.

For his active work and on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Biological Faculty, he received the honorary award St Kliment Ohridski, First Grade (2003).

His fellow botanists extend their condolences to the family. Dr Stefan Draganov will live on in the memories of all who have known him.

