

IN MEMORIAM**Prof. Dr. Elissaveta Dimitrova Bozilova, PhD, DSc
(17.03.1932–20.12.2024)**

Prof. Elissaveta Bozilova, a long-time lecturer in botany at the Biological Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, died on 20th December 2024 at the age of 92.

Her name is associated with the history of the Botany Chair at the Faculty and with the training of hundreds of students, graduands and doctorands, many of whom had followed in her steps in science, judging by the articles and books published by them.

Prof. Dr. Elissaveta Bozilova was born on 17th March 1932, in Sofia. In 1956, she graduated in Biology at the Biological, Geological and Geographical Faculty of the St Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. Her scientific interests tended to Palynology (Pollen Morphology, Paleoecology, Aeropalynology, Melisopalynology). In 1972, Bozilova defended a PhD Thesis entitled *Late Glacial and Postglacial History of Vegetation in the Rila Mts*, and in 1986, a DSc Thesis – *Palaeoecological Conditions and Vegetation Changes in East and Southwest Bulgaria during the Last 15 000 Years*. In 1976, she became Associate Professor, and in 1986, Full Professor at the Botany Chair. She read lectures on the Plant Systematics, Palynology, Paleoecology, and Archaeobotany.

Prof. Bozilova had more than 160 scientific works, textbooks and practical manuals published for the biology students to her credit. She headed a number of national and international scientific projects and supervised many students who sat for their diploma and doctoral theses. She also organized and took part in many national and international scientific conferences and congresses.

Prof. Dr. Bozilova is holder of the 100 Years of the St Kliment Ohridski Sofia University (1997) Jubi-



lee Award and Honorary Award St Kliment Ohridski with Blue Ribbon (2007). Since 1959, she served as regular Assistant Professor at the Systematics of Plants and Plant Geography Chair of Sofia University

Prof. Bozilova also participated in the management of the Biological Faculty, for two terms as Deputy Dean in charge of education. For many years, she had been Editor in Chief of the *Annual of Sofia University, Botany Volume*, and member on the Editorial Board of *Phytologia Balcanica*.

We shall cherish forever our memories with her, the things she taught us and our contacts!

Rest in peace, Prof. Bozilova, a respected tutor, selfless executive and much-loved friend and colleague!

Ana Petrova

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