



Professor dr Mirjana Nešković

Professor Dr Mirjana Nešković, doyen of biological sciences and eminent professor of Plant Physiology at the Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, celebrates this year the 90th anniversary of her birth and 65 years of fruitful scientific and teaching life. She was a teacher of the numerous generations of biology students, and, with her scientific enthusiasm inspired many young phytophysiologists. Right from the very beginning of her scientific career, as a member of the teaching staff, professor Nešković was witness to and active participant in the development of Plant Physiology at the Institute of Botany. She followed the steps of her professor Ljubiša Glišić, who dedicated his professional activities to establishing Plant Physiology as a field of science and education at the Institute of Botany of the Faculty for Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Already as a young scientist in the newly organised Chair of Plant Physiology within the Institute of Botany, M. Nešković focused her attention on investigating the physiology of plant growth and development, placing special emphasis on studies of plant growth regulators, effects of light during plant development, plant sex determination, plant morphogenesis and development

under *in vitro* conditions. She was especially interested in the current research in plant molecular biology and plant genetic engineering. Therefore, even after her retirement in 1997, she actively continued her work with young collaborators in those contemporarily very important scientific fields.

In the second half of the 20th century, many collaborators joined the Chair of Plant Physiology becoming involved in new (not yet covered in Serbia) research areas of Phytophysiology. Given that a number of students became interested in the broad area of Plant Physiology, this resulted in many graduations, masters and doctoral theses. Thanks to many new, diverse, good quality investigations and projects and their resulting publications, Belgrade Plant Physiology School, headed by professor Nešković, became well-known and recognized. The alumni of this school have carried on disseminating their knowledge and research methods in many national and foreign academic institutions where they continued their scientific and academic careers.

Professor Mirjana Nešković was famous for her incisive and critical thinking when analysing her collaborators' research results regarding not only plant



University professors at the Faculty of Biology Day in 2012, in the Botanical Garden "Jevremovac" (Ljubinka Čulafić, Radmila Vujičić, Mirjana Nešković, Branka Stevanović, Jelena Blaženčić, Draga Simić)

physiology but also general botany. Her interest and critical approach to experiments and scientific achievements have been greatly appreciated.

During her scientific and teaching career, she was invited to give lectures not only at her home University, but also in different national and international academic institutions. Professor Nešković was Director of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac" and one of the founders of the Department of Plant Physiology at the Institute of Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" in Belgrade. In addition, she was co-founder of the Yugoslav Society for Plant Physiology and later of the Serbian Plant Physiology Society. She took active part in the work of these associations as well as in several other international and national biological, botanical and related societies such as the American Society of Plant Physiologists, International Association for Plant Tissue Culture, Scandinavian Society for Plant Physiology, Serbian Biological Society, etc.

Professor Mirjana Nešković had an unrestrained urge to adopt new developments in plant sciences and science in general. She successfully and fruitfully headed

projects dealing with the application of methods of genetic engineering of selected plant species.

She incorporated her immense knowledge and immeasurable scientific and academic experience in the highly appreciated university textbook *Plant Physiology* co-authored with Ljubinka Čulafić and Radomir Konjević published in 2003, and reprinted in 2010.

Even today, professor Mirjana Nešković has an enthusiastic approach to contemporary scientific achievements in Plant Physiology. On this occasion, we pay high tribute to her personality and knowledge, and congratulate her on her glorious 90th birthday, wishing her a healthy and long life to be dedicated to her current passion - writing.

Professor dr Zlatko Giba
and
Professor dr Aneta Sabovljević
Chair for Plant Physiology of
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