

*In memoriam*

**Prof. Dr. Mirjana Nešković  
(1925-2017)**



Professor Dr. Mirjana Nešković was born on 1925 in Pančevo, where she finished primary school and graduated from the Pančevo Gymnasium. In 1945 she enrolled at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy - Biology Group and graduated in 1950. She worked for a few months as a secondary school teacher and from November of 1950 was employed as an assistant in the Department of Botany of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Belgrade. She served as a teaching assistant of Prof. Dr. Ljubiša Glišić, a widely renowned botanist and embryologist.

In 1965 she defended her doctoral thesis in the field of plant physiology, growth, and development at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics. She was employed as Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology in 1969, Associate Professor in 1980, and Full Professor in 1985. Professor Nešković directed the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac" for four years, in addition to which she was Chairman of the Department of Plant Physiology (for 20 years). She was also one of the founders of the Department of Plant Physiology at the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" in Belgrade.

She taught numerous generations of biology students and inspired many young plant physiologists with her scientific enthusiasm. Already as a young scientist and teacher in the newly organized Department of Plant Physiology within the Institute of Botany, Professor Nešković placed special emphasis on studies of plant growth regulators, light control of plant development, and plant morphogenesis and development under *in vitro* conditions, which was a very new and promising discipline. She carried out highly successful and pioneer investigations in the field of plant molecular biology and plant genetic engineering. Even after her retirement in 1989, she actively continued research with young collaborators in the aforementioned new and very important scientific fields in plant physiology. In the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many young collaborators and students wrote their bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses under the supervision of Professor Nešković. She was mentor in more than 20 PhD theses and 30 master's theses. Many young plant physiologists started investigations under the supervision of Mirjana Nešković and then later continued their scientific careers in famous research institutes all over the world. Her interest in and critical

approach to experimentation and scientific advancement were widely acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Throughout her long and fruitful career, Professor Nešković with her scientific enthusiasm inspired many young plant physiologists.

In the course of her scientific and teaching activity, Mirjana Nešković successfully completed specialization studies at a number of foreign institutions, including Bedford College of the University of London (as a UNESCO fellow), the University of Brno, the German National Academy of Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, and the University of Warsaw. She was co-founder of the Yugoslav Society of Plant Physiologists, but also was an active member of many important international and national societies, including the American Society of Plant Physiologists, the Scandinavian Society for Plant Physiology, the International Association for Plant Tissue Culture, the International Plant Growth

Substances Association, the Serbian Biological Society, etc. During her fruitful and successful academic career and even after her retirement, Professor Nešković had a very impressive scientific opus that includes more than 95 scientific papers published mainly in respected international plant physiology journals. Her limitless knowledge, widely acknowledged and highly valued scientific achievements, and long experience were incorporated in the comprehensive university textbook *Plant Physiology*, co-authored with Radomir Konjević and Ljubinka Čulafić, which was published in 2003 and reprinted in 2010.

Professor Mirjana Nešković passed away on November 4, 2017 in Belgrade. We greatly regret her death, recall her as an enthusiastic scientist and excellent teacher, and will keep her for a long time in living memory.

Aneta SABOVLJEVIĆ