



Acad. Ion I. DEDIU (Chișinău, R. of Moldova) and his recent work

The name of the ecologist, professor and environmentalist Ion I. Dediu (from the R. of Moldova) is already very well known among those interested in the study and protection of the environment, of the structure and functioning of ecological systems.

Considered by Prof. C. Toma (2011) as “*the greatest ecologist of our time*” (with reference to the Eastern European geographic area), he is the author of a recent work that we believe should be better known by botanists. This is why we aimed to signal in the pages of our journal the publication of the valuable volumes written by Acad. Dediu over the past 5 years, which amount to 3,050 pages!

The 5 volumes (Fig. 1a) published between 2006-2007 by the Phoenix Publishing House, which were awarded the prestigious “Gr. Antipa” prize by the Romanian Academy (in 2009), are eloquent through the title of each: *Introducere în Ecologie* (“Introduction to Ecology” 2006, 340 p.), *Tratat de Ecologie teoretică* (“Treatise on Theoretical Ecology” 2007, 557 p.), *Ecologie sistemică sau Ecosistemologie* (“Systemic Ecology or Ecosystemology” 2007, 295 p.), *Ecologia populațiilor* (“Population Ecology” 2007, 177 p.), *Biosferologie* (“Biospherology” 2007, 145 p.).

Referring to the second volume, Prof. G. Mustață (2011) said that this is “*the bible of theoretical ecology*”. We believe that all the volumes together make up a treatise that can be called “*the Romanian bible of ecology*”. And, like the Bible, this treatise should be studied by each naturalist who wishes to build good solid foundations in the field of activity embraced.

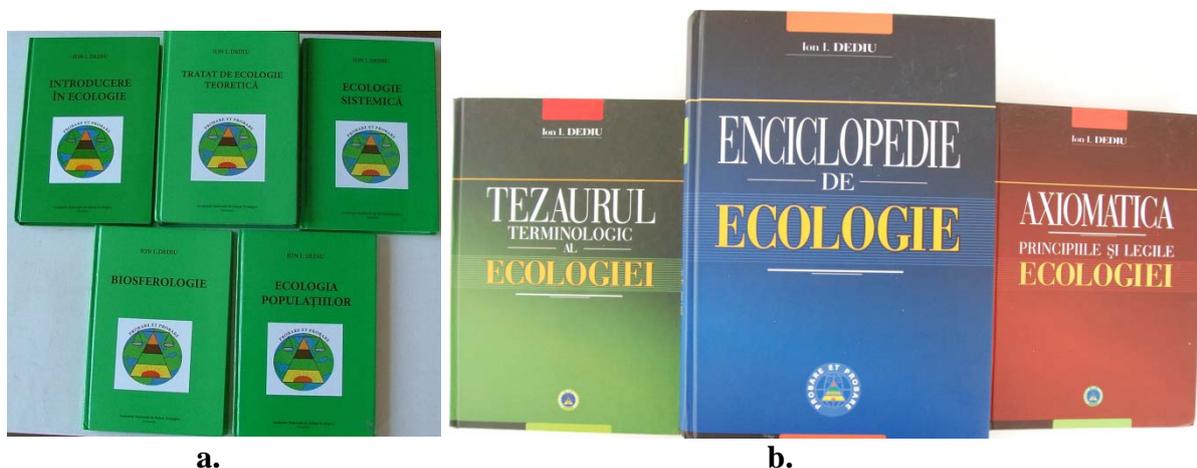


Fig. 1: The 8 volumes published by Acad. I. Dediu: a. in 2006-2007, b. in 2010.

Starting from the words of Confucius: “*The pathway of the reform of bad states passes through the rectification of the names for all things, beings and actions*”, the last 3 volumes (Fig. 1b) published by the Știința Publishing House (Chișinău) approach terminology aspects: the author tries to explain the terms that are used and usable in the field of environment in general, and of ecology in particular.

Thus, the impressive volume “*Enciclopedie de Ecologie*” (“Encyclopedia of Ecology” 2010, 836 p.) is the result of a more than 50 years personal experience and information processed from almost 800 bibliographic titles. For this volume, The Romanian Academy of Scientists awarded the author the “G. E. Palade - 2010” prize. The reader will find in this volume the necessary explanations for ecology terms (their brief definition, synonyms, suggestive examples and presentation of terms with which they can often be confused), but also genetics, physics, chemistry and conservation terms, which are frequently used by ecologists. Although illustrations consist of only 56 figures, this volume closely resembles in terms of conception and presentation the volume elaborated by the notorious Prof. F. Ramade (2002, 2008).

In “*Axiomatica, Principiile și Legile Ecologiei*” (“Axiomatics, Principles and Laws in Ecology” 2010, 216 p.), we will find the necessary explanations for the basic terms in ecology, whether they refer to theories, laws, principles, indices, models, or aphorisms, postulates, hypotheses, paradigms, syntagms, etc.

The “*Tezaurul terminologic al Ecologiei. Glosar etimologic român-rus-englez*” (“Terminological Thesaurus of Ecology. Romanian-Russian-English Etymological Glossary” 2010, 284 p.) is also of particular utility. The majority of the terms are also given an etymological explanation, which facilitates their acquisition, and the corresponding terms in English and Russian allow to avoid their inadequate use by Romanian authors who use these two foreign languages.

Just looking at these 8 volumes gives us the conviction that their author shares the opinion of the our regretted philosopher C. Noica (1990): “*I am in the happy hour when I can work without having to labor*”, who believed that whoever labors is oppressed by labor, whoever works, produces! And the recent production of Acad. I. Dediu is impressive!

We hope that by raising the curiosity of the young and less young Romanian naturalists for these volumes, we will witness in the future, beyond an extension of the ecological issues addressed, a more rigorous use of terminology in this multi- and transdisciplinary, theoretical as well as extremely practical, classical area of high current interest.

At his 78 years of age celebrated this year (on the day when Christians celebrate the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist), we wish the author of these volumes good health and many professional and personal achievements!

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