

Contribuții Botanice – 2012, XLVII: 95-96
Grădina Botanică “Alexandru Borza”
Cluj-Napoca



**PROF. DR. IOAN POP,
AT HIS 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

The academic community of *Alma Mater Napocensis* and the botanists present at the opening of the scientific session on *Current Issues in Plant Biology* – 18th edition (1–3 June 2012, Cluj-Napoca – Jibou) celebrated the life and career of the nonagenarian Prof. Dr. Ioan Pop, one of the outstanding personalities of Romanian botany of the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 3rd millennium.

After a synthetic presentation of the life and activity of this celebrated personality (by Prof. Dr. Vasile Cristea), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Călin Rus, Pro-Rector, offered him on behalf of the Babeș-Bolyai University Rectorate a ***Diploma of Excellence*** “for his long and successful research activity in the field of botany, for his exemplary dedication to teaching and for his deep commitment to *Alma Mater Napocensis*”.

In the same spirit of recognition, Prof. Dr. Aurel Ardelean, President of the Senate of the “V. Goldiș” University of Arad, handed him a *Diploma of Excellence* and the *Plaquette* of this university.

These symbolic gestures add to the prizes awarded to Prof. I. Pop by the Romanian Academy: - 1956 – the “*E. Racoviță*” prize – for research on the role of calcium salts in the process of rhizogenesis; - 1980 – the “*E. C. Teodorescu*” prize – for the monograph *The flora and vegetation of the Zărand Mountains*, as a co-ordinator; and the “*Silver leaf*” distinction, presented by the “*Planta Europa*” Association in 2007.

Discrete and most tenacious, passionate and extremely demanding, modest and most generous, but exuberant in the true sense of the word in his teaching rôle, Prof. Pop taught the discipline of *Systematic Botany* (from 1971), as well as a number of disciplines as part of the specializations of Geology (*General Botany*) and Geography (*Phytogeography*, *Biogeography*), as well as some special disciplines as part of the specialization of Biology (*Algology*, *Plant Hydrobiology*, *Medicinal Plants*, *Agrobiology*, *Protection of Nature in Romania*).

He maintained exchanges with important personalities of international botany, such as: E. Hübl and L. Mucina from Austria; A. Jurko and T. Krippelova from Slovakia; J-M. Géhu and Y. Lemoigne from France; A. Miyawaki from Japan; W. Lohmeyer, H. Meusel, E. Oberdorfer and R. Tüxen from Germany; R-Soó, A. Borhidi and T. Pócs from Hungary, etc.

Prof. Pop has always been receptive to new ideas and has brought innovative elements to his field, which is why his celebration was associated with the above-mentioned scientific session (on the topic “*From molecular ecology to phytocoenosis ecology*”) and the ceremony dedicated to the distinguished molecular ecologist Pierre Taberlet.

On behalf of all the botanists, we wish you ***Happy Birthday***, dear Prof. Dr. Ioan POP!

The Editorial Board