

Contribuții Botanice – 2012, XLVII: 97
Grădina Botanică “Alexandru Borza”
Cluj-Napoca

***In memoriam* Associate Professor Dr. Maria CIURCHEA (1931-2012)**



Maria Ciurchea was born in Băbeni-Olteț, Vâlcea County, Romania, on 12 April 1931. She attended secondary school at the Girls Lyceum in Râmnicu-Vâlcea (1942–49) and received her higher education at the Natural Sciences Faculty of "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca (1949–53).

During 1953–68 she successively held the posts of Assistant and Assistant Professor at the Department of Botany in the Faculty of Biology and Geography of "Babeș-Bolyai" University. In 1963 she defended her PhD Thesis, entitled *The Flora of the Vâlcea District*.

In 1969–89 she worked as Associate Professor at the Department of Education in the Faculty of History and Philosophy, "Babeș-Bolyai" University, a period during which she coordinated the discipline 'Methodology of Teaching Biology' in the University's Faculty of Biology, Geography and Geology.

In 1990 she returned, as Associate Professor, to the Department of Botany, Faculty of Biology, Geography and Geology. She retired in 1992.

Maria Ciurchea was the author of four books, including *Teaching Methodology for biological sciences* (1983), which is still recommended by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as a reference for biology teachers. She also published three monographs and 64 scientific articles, with a range of approaches, from her pedagogical and methodological works to studies of phanerogam and lichen floras, notably the flora of Oltenia, with over 100 citations in the international literature. She presented many communications and 80 plenary lectures at national scientific meetings.

She identified two lichen species new to science, *Pertusaria transilvanica* Ciurchea and *Lecanora vidraensis* Ciurchea, and added over 1500 herbarium sheets to the „Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden Herbarium, Cluj-Napoca.

In 2004 she completed her updating of the *Catalogue of Lichens in Romania* (1998), accessible online as *Checklist of Lichens and Lichenicolous Fungi of Romania* (2007). In addition, she published *The Identification of the lichens of Romania* (2005), a work covering the taxonomy, ecology and phytosociology of 1205 lichen species.

Maria Ciurchea died in Cluj-Napoca on 19 May 2012.

Florin CRIȘAN