



LILYANA DIMITROVA YURUKOVA (1949 - 2014)

It is with great sadness that on August 22th, 2014 we lost Prof. Dr. Lilyana Yurukova.

Dr. Yurukova was a professor at the Institute of biodiversity and ecosystem research (ex Institute of Botany), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, and has been an active and valuable member of the biological scientific community in Bulgaria. She will be greatly missed by family, friends, and colleagues.

Lilyana Yurukova was born 27 May 1949 in Sofia, Bulgaria. She received Ph.D. in 1986 in the field of Ecology and Ecosystem Protection. In 1972 she became a chemist at the Institute of Botany, in 1977 a leader of the Analytical laboratory, in 1987 a research fellow, in 1996 associate professor and in 2012 professor. She also held teaching position at Plovdiv University from 1994.

Prof. Yurukova was an editor of Section Environmental Contamination - Ecosystems in *Quintessence*, USA. She had been an active member in several professional groups including Bulgarian Phytocoenological Society, INTECOL (International Association for Ecology), EURASAP (European Association for the Science of Air Pollution), Bulgarian branch of IHSS (International Humic Substances Society) and IAD (International Association for Danube Research).

She was a regular reviewer of articles in 11 international journals (*Atmospheric Pollution*, *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, *Water, Soil and Air Pollution*, *Science of the Total Environment*, etc.).

Her commitment and contribution to the European moss survey (UNECE ICP Vegetation) was acknowledged.

Prof. Yurukova was an organizer of schools on biomonitoring in 2 colleges and 1 university in Northeastern Greece in the period 2009-2012.

She published numerous journal articles, book chapters and reports, being co-author and author of 170 publications. During the last 15 years Prof. Yurukova has worked on 23 projects. She supervised 11 M.Sc. and 5 Ph.D. students.

Prof. Yurukova's work on the biomonitoring was distinguished by enormous breadth and scope. She has made basic contributions to understanding the pollution monitoring with mosses, lichenized fungi, macromycetes, vascular plants, animal tissues and organs, as well as to ecotoxicological effects of heavy metals and toxic elements in edible mushrooms and bee products.

As her Ph.D. student, colleague and friend I would like to note that she was an exceptional teacher and devoted researcher. Lilyana Yurukova was one of the most courageous, inspiring and stimulating people ever.

GANNA M. GECHIEVA