

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR LEPOSAVA STJEPANOVIĆ NÉE VESELIČIĆ  
(1915-2007)

UDC 929 Stjepanović L. : 56  
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A retired full professor at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Leposava Stjepanović died on January 25, 2007.

Leposava Stjepanović (née Veseličić) was born on December 30, 1915 in Prijepolje. She completed her elementary schooling in Prijepolje, attended high school in Velika Kikinda, and graduated from high school in Bela Crkva in 1935. That same year, she enrolled as a biology major at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Philosophy, from which she received her bachelor's degree in 1939. She became a graduate assistant at the Medical School's Department of Pharmacy in November of 1939 and an advanced graduate assistant in 1940. During the Occupation, she transferred to the Botanical Garden of the University of Belgrade. Following the Liberation in 1945, she took up the post of graduate assistant in botany at the Faculty of Pharmacy. In 1952 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation ("Vegetation of the Deliblato Sands—a Phytocenological Study") at the Biological Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences. She became an associate of the Academy's Institute of Ecology and Biogeography in 1947. After that, she was appointed an assistant professor in 1959, became an associate professor in 1959, attained the rank of full professor in 1966, and retired in 1976.

Leposava Stjepanović became the Botanical Institute's director after the retirement of Professor Jakovljević in 1961 and performed that function until 1976. She served as Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy from 1960 to 1962 and Dean from 1967 to 1969. In addition to this, she was a member of the Faculty of Pharmacy's Academic Council and the Council of the Institute of Medicinal Plants.



Professor Stjepanović published 42 scientific papers. She supervised research on the following scientific themes: the eco-physiology of plant species of our flora containing active substances (1965-1970); and the physiology of plants of our flora containing essential oils, coumarins, and furocoumarins among active substances (1970-1975). For many years she was a member of the Committee on Flora and Vegetation of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. During that time, she wrote the descriptions of many taxa in the Academy's 10-volume work "Flora of the Socialist Republic of Serbia".

For her part in the publication of that work, she received the October Award in 1970. In addition to this, she received the Seventh of July Award in 1988. In 1996 Professor Stjepanović was granted special recognition from the Society of Ecologists of Serbia for outstanding contributions to organization and development of teaching and research in the area of fundamental and applied ecology on the territory of Serbia. She was a member of the scientific section of the Serbian Biological Society and a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Serbia.

The scientific papers of Professor Stjepanović were in the area of the physiological ecology of plant species of our flora containing active substances. In these investigations, she devoted special attention to the link between external environmental factors and anatomical characteristics, particularly correlative relations between the water regime and the quantity and quality of essential oils in plants from the families Asteraceae, Lamiaceae, and Apiaceae. These papers represent a significant and lasting contribution to the science and study of

medicinal plants as potential sources of raw materials for extraction of active substances.

With the death of Prof. Dr. Leposava Stjepanović, botany and botanists lost a highly esteemed worker, respected col-

league, and witness to significant events in the development of Serbian botany.

Prof. Dr. Radiša Jančić