

IN MEMORIAM

**PROF. DR. PAVLE RADOMAN**  
(1913-2007)

UDC 929 Radoman P. : 57.01

Professor Pavle Radoman passed away in Belgrade on May 17th 2007. He was the doyen of Serbian evolutionary biologists, Head of the Institute of Zoology, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and an internationally very highly esteemed expert on the modern taxonomy of aquatic mollusks.

Pavle Radoman was born in 1913 in the vicinity of Virpazar in Montenegro. He attended high school in Podgorica, then studied biology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, where he graduated in 1938. As a research associate at Belgrade University's Faculty of Medicine, he went to Montenegro when the Second World War started, to be involved in the uprising against the fascist invaders in July of 1941. Imprisoned in 1942, he spent two years as a war prisoner in Italy. After the war he participated in establishing of the Serbian Ministry of Education in Belgrade, and was one of the founders of the Association of High School and University Teachers of Yugoslavia.

In 1952 Pavle Radoman became a research associate at the Science Faculty's Institute of Zoology in Belgrade, where he was able to continue his work on mollusks. After collecting valuable material in Lake Ohrid, he spent a year in England, where he worked in the department of two distinguished evolutionists, Professors Cain and Sheppard. Returning to Belgrade, he defended his PhD thesis in 1955, and was appointed an Assistant Professor of Organic Evolution, then Associate Professor (in 1960), and finally Full Professor (in 1967). In the meantime, already in the late 1950s, Dr. Radoman contributed



greatly to criticism of Lisenkoism among biologists at Belgrade University, especially among those from the Faculty of Agriculture.

As a world renowned malacologist, Dr. Radoman published more than 60 original scientific papers in this field, several distinguished monographs, and a number of valuable textbooks in evolution, both for secondary school pupils and for university students. His modern course in Organic Evolution was based on Darwinian theory, but also involved comparative and developmental biology, with practical exercises in Mendelian Genetics. In 1968, the Faculty of Science in Belgrade officially established the Chair of Evolution and Genetics, which developed different courses organized by his former assistants.

As Dean of the Faculty of Science in the early 1970s, Chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences (1976-1978), and long-standing Head of the Institute of Zoology, Professor Pavle Radoman insisted on the highest criteria for teachers and scientists at this faculty. One of them was that full and associate professors must provide their students with an original and competent textbook for the courses they are teaching, a requirement which improved the quality of studies at this faculty in the periods to follow.

Professor Radoman's primary scientific occupation was the conduct of a modern study of populations of molluskan species inhabiting the shores of the ancient Lake Ohrid, including their comparative morphology, especially the fine anatomy of repro-

ductive and other organs. As a result of this work, he was able to ascertain a high level of endemism in the Ohrid basin. His study also encompassed the evolutionary systematics and biogeography of different faunal groups, especially endemic and relict species, inhabiting freshwater ecosystems, lakes and springs in Southeast Europe and Asia Minor. Dr. Radoman collaborated closely with Professor Siniša Stanković, and continued to take that eminent biologist's broad approach in studies of aquatic ecosystems and classification of endemic species in the region of Southeast Europe. Pavle Radoman studied and explained processes of microgeographic allopatric speciation within the specific biotopes he explored, especially along the shores of the ancient Ohrid basin. He described more than 20 new genera with over 60 new species and many forms of mollusks, primarily among members of the group of Hydrobioidea from Lake Ohrid, but also from other aquatic habitats in different regions of the Balkan Peninsula and wider Mediterranean areas. In two capital monographs on the systematics, zoogeography, and evolution of the freshwater fauna of for-

mer Yugoslavia and surrounding regions, Professor Radoman explained in a competent way the phylogeny and evolution of the peri-Mediterranean (especially the Balkan) fauna, in a highly accomplished, synthetic, and modern evolutionary way.

After his retirement, Professor Pavle Radoman did not continue to engage actively in scientific research, but his monographs and valuable papers are still constantly requested by numerous scientists all over the world.

Professor Radoman died in Belgrade on May 17th 2007 in his 94th year of age. A few days later, he was buried in his native village near Virpazar. His influence on the science of biology in subsequent generations has been evident in our country, and we are proud that he was our Professor, Head of our Institute, and Dean of the Faculty of Science, which for almost half a century embraced the main sciences at the University of Belgrade.

Prof. Dr. Dragoslav M. Marinković