

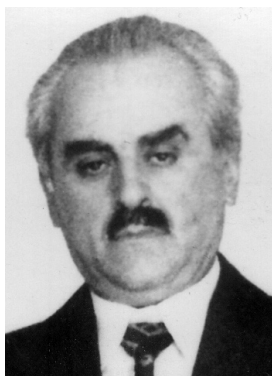
## IN MEMORIAM

### DR. VOJISLAV MIŠIĆ (1922-2009)

UDC 929 Mišić V.: 581.9

061.75 Mišić V.

Doctor Vojislav Mišić, a prominent scientist and phytocologist, passed away on January 27, 2009 in Belgrade. He was born on August 6, 1922 in Belgrade, Serbia, where he received his primary and secondary education and enrolled in biology at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Science. He graduated with highest marks from that faculty upon submitting an undergraduate thesis entitled "The Vegetation of Mt. Avala". During his studies, he worked on a voluntary basis at the Botany Department of the Natural History Museum, where the renowned scientist Dr. Pavle Černjavski was employed at the time. The presence of this scientist was of crucial significance for Vojislav Mišić as a botanist. Later (from 1947 onward), Mišić worked as a volunteer at the Institute of Ecology and Biogeography of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, participating in team research on forest vegetation. On completing his undergraduate studies, he received a scholarship from the Institute, where he served as a Research Assistant. Successfully defending a dissertation entitled "Variability and Ecology of the Beech in Yugoslavia", Vojislav Mišić earned his doctoral degree from the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Science, after which he was appointed to the post of Scientific Associate. That same year, he published a monograph on the Balkan beech, which was awarded a prize by the Republic of Serbia's Council on Culture. He earned the title of Scientific Adviser in 1961, a year in which he also became Chairman of the Department of Phytocology in what later became the Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research. In 1973, he was granted the title of Senior Scientific Adviser. In collaboration with other scientific work-



ers, Dr. Mišić took part in the realization of a number of projects, including the following: "Idioecological Studies of Economically Important Plant and Animal Species"; "Biocenotic Investigations"; "Anthropogenic Disturbances of Living Communities and Habitats"; "Allelopathy in Economically Significant Plant Species"; "Man and the Environment"; "Phytocoenological, Experimental, Biocenological, and Idioecological Investigations"; and "Multidisciplinary Investigations of Ecosystems at the Research Station on Mt. Jastrebac". At the Faculty of Science in Belgrade, he taught graduate courses in phytocology, phytocoenology, and plant idioecology from 1964 to 1973. He served as adviser in the preparation of two doctoral theses and two post-graduate theses. Among his other activities, Dr. Mišić participated in the work of seminars for biology teachers. He delivered more than 50 lectures on ecology to high school teachers at gatherings organized by the Serbian Biological Society. Apart from that, he published two handbooks on ecology, one in the area of phytocoenology entitled "The Plant Community and Habitat Principles of Phytocoenology" (1964); and the other in the area of phytoidioecology entitled "Ecological Factors and Their Significance for the Plant World" (1964). In addition, he took part in many congresses and symposia at home and abroad. In 1972, the Serbian Biological Society awarded him a medal for success in research, teaching, and participation in the Society's activities. He chaired the Department of Phytocology until his retirement in 1987. To the end of his life, he continued to take an active part in scientific work. Known for his characteristic enthusiasm, encyclopedic knowledge, and interest in

everything around him, Dr. Mišić carried out successful research in different scientific spheres, including classical phytocenology, experimental phytocenology, phytogeography, idioecology of plant species, plant microsystematics, allelopathy, vegetation mapping, and environmental protection. In the area of plant ecology, Dr. Mišić studied a great many scientifically and economically important species, focusing on their ecology, range, variability, and participation in community formation. In a monograph entitled "Ecological Differentiation of Forest Tree Species in Serbia" (2004), he synthetically presented the results of research on the ecology and variability of beech, Norway spruce, Turkish hazel, European nettle-tree, laurel cherry, and other species. In the sphere of phytocenology, Dr. Mišić conducted significant investigations of the forest vegetation of characteristic mountains and regions of Serbia such as Kopaonik, Stara Planina, Avala, Fruška Gora, Zlatar, Golija, Iron Gate, and others. In 1978, he and his collaborators received the October Award of the City of Belgrade for the monograph "Plant Communities and Habitats of the Stara Planina Mountains", published by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA). Doctor Mišić devoted particular attention to the relict vegetation present in refugia in Serbia, where numerous relict species, relict forest communities, and whole vegetation series rare in Europe were sheltered during unfavorable climatic periods in the ancient past. They not only help to create the existing great abundance and diversity of forest vegetation, but also throw light on its origin, historical development, and impoverishment. These problems were treated in many published scientific papers, the most interesting of which were "Forest vegetation in gorges and canyons of Eastern Serbia" (1981) and "Relict polydominant forest communities in Serbia" (1982). As part of his regular responsibilities, Dr. Mišić was a member of the SASA Council on Flora and Vegetation and the editorial board for the multivolume publication "The Vegetation of Serbia". The first volume of this work (published in 1984) contains a contribute to vegetation of Serbia (subtitled "Forest Communities 1"), which was published in 1987, where Dr. Mišić described highland beech forests, relict forests with Turkish hazel, and com-

munities of eastern hornbeam with lilac. In the third volume of the series (subtitled "Forest Communities 2"), published in 2006, he described Norway spruce forests and subalpine and alpine bush vegetation. Doctor Mišić was a member of the scientific board of the federally funded macro project "Vegetation Map of Yugoslavia" and the editorial board of this project. He was also one of the authors of the "Map of Potentially Useful Vegetation of Yugoslavia" (on a scale of 1: 1,000,000), which was published in 1983 by the Military-Geographical Institute in Belgrade. Apart from classical phytocenology, Dr. Mišić with his collaborators participated in development of the scientific discipline of experimental phytocenology. In a highly significant pioneer work entitled "Ecological study of subalpine bush vegetation of Mt. Kopaonik" (1960), he presented the results of long-term experiments involving removal of the overground and underground organs of whortleberry, dwarf juniper, and other plant species and synusia. He also conducted experimental phytocenological investigations of the effects of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on regeneration of the Norway spruce forest on Mt. Kopaonik. Together with his collaborators, Dr. Mišić published many papers in the sphere of allelopathy. He discovered certain regularities governing the stimulatory or inhibitory influence of dominant plant species on other species within forest ecosystems. Most of these works pertained to dominant species in oak forests, species such as perfoliate honeysuckle and others. In cooperation with the Nature Protection Institute of Serbia, Dr. Mišić took part in long-term projects involving complex biocenotic research in the Obedska Bara Reserve and investigation of ecosystems in the Đerdap region. In this period, his significant work "Phytocenological investigations in the vicinity of Lepenski Vir" was published as part of the book "Lepenski Vir" by Dragoslav Srejović (1969). With his knowledge of the vegetation of mountains and regions in Serbia such as Fruška Gora, Kopaonik, Stara Planina, Golija, Tara, and Iron Gate, Dr. Mišić provided valuable assistance to workers of the Institute in selecting areas in need of protection as reserves, particularly regions with forest communities of special significance for conservation. Especially valuable was his original carto-

graphic documentation of the vegetation in several protected regions of Serbia, namely Iron Gate National Park, the Golija-Studenica Biosphere Reserve, and others. The results of his research with collaborators from the Nature Protection Institute were published in the national scientific journal "Protection of Nature". In the course of his long career, Dr. Mišić published seven monographs, more than 300 scientific papers, and 50 popular scientific articles. He also published a book for children enti-

tled "Naturalist on the Mountain". Among other citations and acknowledgments, Dr. Mišić was awarded a charter from Matica Srpska in Novi Sad (1976); the Medal with Red Banner for Meritorious Service (1988); a special acknowledgment from the Serbian Biological Society for work in the area of fundamental and applied ecology (1996); and a charter from the Nature Protection Institute of Serbia (1998).

Dr. Anka Dinić