

IN MEMORIAM

PROF. DR. VITKO ŠORIĆ
(1939-2010)



Prof. Dr. Vitko Šorić was born on 31 May, 1939, in Orahovac. He attended elementary school in the place of his birth, and secondary school (for graphic design) in Zagreb. In Kragujevac he graduated from the teacher training college in Biology and Chemistry. In 1965, Dr. Vitko Šorić enrolled at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, and graduated in Biology on 20 September, 1967. In 1968 he was elected to the position of teaching assistant in General and Comparative Physiology of Animals at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad, and in 1973 he was elected to the same position in Zoology at the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Sciences in Kragujevac. He defended his master's thesis, titled "The White Drim Basin Ichthyofauna with Special Emphasis on the Systematic Characteristics of Bleak - *Alburnus alburnus alborella* (de Filippi)", in 1974 at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Novi Sad. In December 1979, he defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Morphological-Ecological Studies of Populations of Balkan Endemics *Pachytilon pictum* (Heckel and Kner, 1858)". In June 1980 Dr. Šorić was promoted to the position of assistant professor for the course: Systematics and

Comparative Morphology in the Institute of Biological Sciences of the Faculty of Sciences in Kragujevac. In 1993 he was promoted to the position of associate professor at the same faculty, and in 1996, to that of full professor.

Prof. Vitko Šorić studied the systematics, zoogeography and ecology of the ichthyofauna of Serbia and Balkan Peninsula throughout his working life. In particular, he studied the ichthyofauna of the Beli Drim River in its drainage area in Metochia in the Adriatic Sea basin.

In 1984, while on a study visit to Greece, he studied the ichthyofauna of the Aliakmon system.

Dr. Šorić published over 100 scientific papers in international and national journals, and he participated in numerous international and national scientific meetings.

Of particular significance are works that were published in the international monograph "The

Freshwater Fishes of Europe", in which he examined the systematics, ecology and zoogeography of species from the genera *Barbus*, *Gobio*, *Aulopyge*, *Zingel*, etc. Besides this, Prof. Šorić made an important contribution to the study of the biology and ecology of Petromyzontidae in the waters of Serbia and the Balkan Peninsula.

During his long and committed scientific and field work, Prof. Vitko Šorić gathered together a large and important collection of fish from areas throughout the Balkan Peninsula (and especially from Kosovo and Metochia) which he bequeathed to the Aquarium of the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences in Kragujevac. Under the mentorship of Prof. Vitko Šorić several MSc and PhD theses

in the field of ichthyology and the ecology of inland waters were defended.

Prof. Vitko Šorić had the gift of sharing his knowledge and scientific skills with the colleagues and students, who worked enthusiastically with him, and who, under his leadership, continued in their studies to doctoral level. Through his teaching and educating of future university lecturers, and with the scientific results that placed him among the most prominent Yugoslav, Balkan and European ichthyologists, he promoted the Institute of Biology and Ecology of the Faculty of Sciences in Kragujevac.

V. Simić, Draga Janković and P. Simonović