

## IN MEMORIAM

**PROF. DR. BUDISLAV TATIĆ**  
(1926-2010)

Professor Budislav Tatić was born on March 9, 1926, in the village Tulare, Serbia, where he received his primary education. He completed his secondary school in Leskovac and Prokuplje. From 1944, before he was mobilized, he worked as a substitute teacher in the primary school in the village Rgaj, completing his term there in 1947. For his successful work in the school and overall activities in increasing the literacy at that time, he has received a scholarship for his studies in Belgrade from the Prokuplje authorities.



Balkan region. During 25 years (1960-1984), as an authority in phytocenology, Professor Tatić was a member of the scientific board of the federally funded macro project “The vegetation map of Yugoslavia” and on the editorial board of this project. In the course of this work, he and his colleagues prepared 30 vegetation maps that cover a significant part of the territories of Serbia and Montenegro.

He enrolled in biology at the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Science and graduated in 1951 with the highest grades. After graduation, he completed his military service. On his return, he was appointed by Professor Ljubiša Glišić as assistant at the Chair of Botany of the same faculty, where he started his investigation of flora and vegetation, and work on his doctoral thesis. He obtained his PhD degree in 1961 with a thesis entitled: “Flora and vegetation of Studena mountain near Kraljevo”. Soon after, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Plant Morphology.

The scientific opus of Professor Tatić is impressive and includes more than 100 bibliographic units. Known for his encyclopedic knowledge, and interest in various fields of botany, Professor Tatić carried out research in classical phytocenology, anatomy, taxonomy, vegetation mapping, phytogeography and environmental protection.

During this period, his main scientific interest was the investigation of plant communities. Professor Tatić was especially interested in relict and endemic phytocenoses, as well as those on serpentine soil. He discovered and researched several plant communities new to science (*Matteucio-Alnetum glutinosae*, *Cephalario-Seslerietum rigidae*, *Myrtillo-Quercetum cerris*, *Edraiantho-Saxifragetum porophyllae*, *Lathyrreto-Molinietum coeruleae*, *Aceri-Ostryetum carpini-faliae*, *Festuco rubrae-Cynosuretum cristati* etc.). He was one of the best experts in this scientific field, not only in Serbia but also in the former Yugoslavia and

He was one of our best authorities in the flora of the Balkan Peninsula. His contributions include a review of genera and species for the edition “Flora of Serbia” (ten volumes); new taxa for the flora of Serbia and Balkan Peninsula; karyological investigations; new findings of the rare and important plants in Serbia; serpentine flora.

One of most important results in the field of taxonomy was the discovery and description of a new species– *Tulipa serbica* Tatić et Krivošej, considered by botanists to be one of the most exciting findings in flora of Serbia in recent times. In addition, he recorded for the first time a number of taxa to the flora of Serbia and former Yugoslavia (*Abies borisii-regis*, *Poa sylvicola*, *Bidens vulgata*, *Asplenium adulterinum*, *Ptilostemon strictus*, *Ranunculus falcatus*, *Gagea fistulosa*, *Goodyera repens* etc.).

He also worked on the distribution of some species in our region, such as *Asplenium adulterinum*, *Tulipa scardica*, *Ramonda serbica*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Adonis vernalis*, *Euphorbia serpentini*, *Alchemilla* etc.).

Professor Tatić investigated the serpentine flora of the Balkan Peninsula with collaborators for many years. Because of these investigations, apart from the PhD theses of his collaborators, several papers were published. Perhaps the most important result of his investigations into this topic was a review of Balkan serpentinophytes entitled "Distribution of serpentinized massives on the Balkan peninsula and their ecology" in an eminent international monograph "The ecology of areas with serpentinized rocks" (B.A. Roberts and J. Proctor eds.), published by Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1990.

He was very active in his contribution to one of the most important editions in botany during 20<sup>th</sup> century – "Flora of Serbia". This encyclopedic survey of the flora of Serbia was edited and published by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Professor Tatić was an author of the chapter dealing with morphological characteristics of plants and contributed in the survey of several taxa (*Bromus*, *Allium*, *Aegilops*, *Koeleria* and *Rubus*). As a monumental work of Serbian botanists, "Flora of Serbia" was awarded by the Belgrade authorities (October Award of the City of Belgrade) and the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia (Seventh-of-July-Award). He also contributed to several other popular encyclopedias of biology and botany.

In the earlier part of his career, Professor Tatić taught plant morphology and later on the systematics and phylogeny of higher plants. His investigations included the anatomical investigation of some rare plants, the influence of geological substrata on morphological characteristics of plants and cytological and karyological investigations into selected taxa.

Apart from his lectures at scientific symposia and other meetings, he also gave several lectures in vari-

ous foreign institutions such as "Endemic and relict species in flora of Serbia" (Plovdiv), "Serpentinophytes in Serbia" (Vienna and Poznan), "Flora and vegetation of Balkan Peninsula" (St. Petersburg), etc. Professor Tatić was well known as a gifted teacher and he lectured at various seminars, on radio ("radio school"), TV, etc.

He was also interested in the historical development of different botanical disciplines in Serbia, and published several articles on our outstanding botanists. Even after his retirement, Professor Tatić worked on the collection of all known data about Serbian botanists of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of these investigations he gave several lectures at Kolarac University dealing with the life and scientific work of our most prominent botanists (Josif Pančić, Nedeljko Košanin, Lujo Adamović, Ljubiša Glišić, Stevan Jakovljević etc.).

His book "A hundred years of the Botanical Garden Jevremovac" was a popular review of the history of this institution, which is an important center for the development of botany not only in Belgrade and Serbia, but also in the whole Balkan region.

Professor Tatić was very active in various scientific associations, such as the Serbian Biological Society, the Society of Systematists of Yugoslavia, and the Society of Ecologists of Yugoslavia. He was head of the Chair for morphology and systematics of plants, Director of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac", Dean of the Faculty of Biology of the Belgrade University, Dean of the Faculty of Science of the Belgrade University, first dean of the Faculty of Science of the Kragujevac University, member of the Council of the Faculty of Biology of the Belgrade University, member of the Council of the Faculty of Science of the Belgrade University

For many years, Professor Tatić was a member and leader of various scientific projects financed by the Ministry of Science and other institutions. Under his guidance, a number of papers were published in outstanding international and national journals. Over the course of 40 years, Professor Tatić care-

fully created teams of collaborators and scientists working in the field of botany (morphology, anatomy, systematics, phytocenology). His discussions on certain taxonomic, phytocenologic, phylogenetic, evolutionary and other problems were very valuable to those collaborators interested in such fields. Under his guidance, 10 students completed their PhD degree.

For his successful work and outstanding achievements, Professor Tatić received many domestic acknowledgments, including the Order of Labour with Gold Wreath, the Order of Labour with Red Star (by decree of the Presidency of the SFRY), the October Award of the City of Belgrade for 'Flora of Serbia', Belgrade, the Seventh-of-July-Award Declaration for the most prominent achievements in the field of biological sciences, the Declaration of Election to the Scientific Society of Serbia, a Certificate of Gratitude of the Serbian Biological Society (issued to mark the 50 years from its foundation 1947-1997), the Fourth-of-April Plaque, the golden Acknowledgement plaque to mark the 40 years of his work at the faculty in Belgrade, a Diploma of the City of Kragujevac, a Certificate of Gratitude from the 'Naučna knjiga' publishing house (1947-1987), and the 'Silver Black-

board' and 'Special Diploma' of appreciation from the Institute for textbooks and teaching aids.

Professor Tatić passed away on July 18, 2010 in Belgrade, bringing to an end an impressive life and career of a teacher, scientist and naturalist. He will be remembered for his outstanding achievements in Serbian botany, both in the scientific field and in teaching.

Although rare, my discussions with Professor Tatić about botany and systematics, and the suggestions garnered from him during field trips and participation in scientific symposia, were of great value to me. His helpful comments and encouragement in the future of systematics and my plans of investigation, were very important in the later development of new methods in plant systematics carried out by our Chair for the morphology and systematics of plants.

Professor Budislav Tatić is no longer with us, but he will be remembered as a great teacher and scientist and greatly missed for his open, positive and friendly disposition.

Petar D. Marin

