

Dedicated to Prof. dr. Ljudevit Ilijanić
on the occasion of his seventieth birthday



Photo: D. Viličić

Professor Ljudevit Ilijanić D. Sc. on the occasion of his seventieth birthday

On September 27, 1928, as the Ozalj country of Karlovac county dawned in its fall colors of brown, gold, and orange, little did the villagers of Slapno know that their newest-born baby boy, Ljudevit Ilijanić, would grow to be one of Croatia's best botanists. Today, plant scientists throughout the world appreciate and respect him both as a colleague and as a friend. Just one example of his numerous contributions to the scientific community is to be found in his years of dedicated and skilled services as editor of *Acta Botanica Croatica*. With an undiminished drive for the pursuit of knowledge, he will now celebrate the 72nd September of his life.

After receiving his basic education at his village school, Ljudevit Ilijanić furthered his knowledge by attending high school in Karlovac and undergraduate school at the University of Zagreb. His former fellow students remember well his enthusiasm for plant biology, which was first documented by his bachelor's thesis entitled: 'Research into the Flora of Ozalj and Its Surroundings'. Looking for a lifetime engagement in plant biology, he applied for an assistant's position in the botany department he had just graduated from, and was appointed in 1953, a few days after his 25th birthday. Further highlights of his career were his Ph. D. thesis entitled: 'Ecological and Phytocenological Studies on the Lowland Meadows of Croatia' and, in particular, a year of postdoctoral training with the renowned French geobotanist and phytocenologist J. Braun-Blanquet at the 'Station internationale de géobotanique méditerranéenne et alpine (SIGMA)' in Montpellier. He was elected assistant professor in 1963, advanced to the rank of associate professor in 1969, and in 1974 was finally appointed full professor to the Chair of Plant Ecology and Geobotany at the Botanical Institute of the Zagreb Faculty of Science. Sabbaticals in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, and the USA helped to establish and maintain international contacts.

As a teacher, Professor Ilijanić took particular pride in his role in creating the curriculum for the first students of ecology at the University of Zagreb. His enthusiasm for plant biology has influenced a large number of undergraduate and graduate students. He served with dedication as an advisor or a member of the board of examiners for uncounted bachelor's theses, more than 50 master's theses, and a fair number of Ph. D. theses. He thus raised many generations of biologists who are now professors and established research scientists at domestic and foreign academic institutions and, even more importantly, secondary school teachers who explain his methods of studying plant sciences to the younger generation of future scholars.

Although Professor Ilijanić retired as a university teacher at the age of 65 (after 40 years of service to the Botany Department), his research activities continue at the same pace as before. Modest, quiet, industrious, and persistently committed to the pursuit of knowledge, he and his work are highly appreciated by the international research community. His publications are quoted in leading books in the field of plant biology such as *Pflanzensoziologie* (1964), *Ecology of Grasslands and Bamboolands in the World* (1979), *Vegetation Mitteleuropas mit den Alpen* (1982), *La vegetatione del Carso Isontino e Triestino* (1989), *Atlante corologico delle piante vascolari nel Friuli-Venezia Giulia Università degli studi di Trieste* (1991) as well as in international journals such as *Mitteilungen des Inst. für Wasserwirtsch.* (1969), *Vegetatio* (1969, 1984, 1985), *Biološke práce Slov. Akad. vied* (1971), *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* (1972, 1974), *Not. Fitosoc* (1975), *Linzer biol. Beitr.* (1978), *Tuexenia* (1983, 1987, 1993), *Folia Geobot. et Phytotaxon.* (1989). In total, Professor Ilijanić's research oeuvre published in domestic and international journals comprises about a hundred papers, some of which laid the very foundations to the study of plant communities in Croatia. Notably, he was the first to start extensive ecological research into the grassland vegetation in Croatia. Further published work relates to swamp, peat and halophile plant communities, emphasizing phytocenological and autecological approaches. His numerous updates to the Croatian flora also constitute an important contribution to plant biology. In addition to research papers, professional essays, books, course outlines, and book reviews represent a significant part of Professor Ilijanić's writing. Also, he never hesitated to pass the barriers of narrow professionalism, thus contributing to three teaching films for school television, and authoring some 40 popular articles, mainly for the journal *Priroda*, as well as close to 250 articles and entries in encyclopedias of the Croatian Lexicographic Institute.

Professor Ilijanić's impact on plant biology in Croatia by far exceeds the published output which bears his name as an author. He particularly encouraged studies on vegetation dynamics and succession. Thanks to his suggestion and continued support, about a hundred permanent study plots were established in various plant geography regions throughout Croatia. In 1971 the study of permanent plots became part of the agenda of the Ecology Association, and in 1975 a symposium was held in Ohrid to reach an agreement on a network of permanent plots, with Professor Ilijanić as one of the leading organizers. This research was also very prominently featured at an international symposium in Montpellier, in 1981.

A list and analysis of the scientific papers authored by Professor Ljudevit Ilijanić up to his retirement in 1993 was published in Vol. 52 of this journal (*Acta Bot. Croat.* vol. 52, 161–166, 1993). As a supplement, we here list his papers published in subsequent years in scientific journals. In chronological order, these are:

HRŠAK, V., ILJANIĆ, Lj., NIKOLIĆ, T., FIEDLER, S., 1993: Lead quantities in Yew (*Taxus baccata* L.) leaves in the greater Zagreb area, Croatia. *Nat. Croat.* 2, 109–122.

ILJANIĆ, Lj., MARKOVIĆ, Lj., STANČIĆ, Z., 1994: *Impatiens balfourii* Hooker in Kroatien. *Acta Bot. Croat.* 53, 115–119.

TOPIĆ, J., ILJANIĆ, Lj., VLADOVIĆ, D., 1996: *Dorycnium rectum* (L.) Ser (*Fabaceae*), a new species in Croatian flora. Nat. Croat. 5, 161–164.

TOPIĆ, J., ŠEGULJA, N., ILJANIĆ, Lj., 1997: *Anthemis tomentosa* L. (*Asteraceae*) a new species in Croatian flora. Nat. Croat. 6, 119–123.

VLADOVIĆ, D., ILJANIĆ, Lj., 1996: Third contribution to the flora of mountain Mosor (Croatia). Acta Bot. Croat. 54, 41–46.

ŠEGULJA, N., ILJANIĆ, Lj., MARKOVIĆ, Lj., 1997: Prikaz i analiza flore Zrinske gore. Acta Bot. Croat. 55/56, 65–99.

TOPIĆ, Lj., ŠEGULJA, N., 1998: *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer (*Geraniaceae*), a new species in Croatian flora. Nat. Croat. 7, 359–362.

ILJANIĆ, Lj., STANČIĆ, Z., TOPIĆ, J., 1998: Distribution and phytosociological relationships of Snake's-head (*Fritillaria meleagris* L.) in Croatia. Acta Bot. Croat. 57, 65–88.

ALEGRO, A.Z., ILJANIĆ, Lj., TOPIĆ, J., 1999: Distribution and ecological relationships of the species *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (L.) Tod. (*Athyriaceae*) in Croatia. Acta Bot. Croat. 58, 127–139.

In the period following his retirement, Professor Ilijanić continued to be a member of Editorial board of the scientific journals: Acta Botanica Croatica (1998–), Braun-Blanquetia (1969–), Natura Croatica (1992–), Phytocoenologia (1999–) and Studia Geobotanica (1985–).

Professor Ilijanić received further recognition for his devoted work. The editorial board of *Priroda* awarded him a special Certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge his contribution to the dissemination and popularization of knowledge about natural history in the magazine *Priroda*, on the occasion of the printing of its 800th issue (1911–1994).

Our wishes expressed seven years ago have certainly been fulfilled, and we are truly pleased to have the opportunity to renew them, wishing Professor Ilijanić many more years of good health and success in his research. We look forward to meeting him in the Botanical Institute and Garden, listening to his advice and enjoying the company of a friendly and inspiring colleague.

IVAN and LJERKA REGULA