

In memoriam

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Haupt

***January 24, 1921 – †October 16, 2005**



On October 16, 2005, Professor Dr. Wolfgang Haupt, emeritus Chair of Botany at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, passed away aged 84. Born in Bonn, he finished high school just in time to go to war with the German army. His military career ended in a French prison camp. As a pass-time, he enrolled in courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics organized by his fellow inmates. This is how he discovered his passion for plant biology. When the war was over, he thus enrolled as a biology student at the universities of Erlangen and Tübingen. He earned his Ph. D. in botany, in 1952, and his »habilitation«, in accord with German university tradition, in 1957. As a plant physiologist, Haupt was preferentially interested in flower formation, the induction of polarity, and phytochrome-mediated light effects on

chloroplast movement and the germination of fern spores. In addition to a long list of research papers, he authored a number of highly appreciated books and book chapters, including contributions to the Encyclopedia of Plant Physiology. A detailed account of professor Haupt's contributions to plant biology was published in this journal (*Acta Bot. Croat.* 60(1), 104–110), on the occasion of his 80th anniversary.

Thanks to his balanced personality, sociable attitude, and cooperativity in professional matters, professor Haupt had many friends all around the world. As a president of the Association of German Biologists (1969–1976), he was one of the founders of the European Community's Biologists Association; as a president of the German Botanical Society (1979–1985), he served on the Organizing and Program Committee for the International Botanical Congress in Berlin (1987). Both societies subsequently proclaimed him honorary member. As a special honor, he was elected member of the »Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina« (1975) and the »Kungliga Fysiografiska Sällskapet i Lund« (1984).

Professor Haupt first visited Croatia while attending the 1967 Symposium on Photobiology in Hvar. This started a life-long friendship with colleagues at the University of Zagreb which was maintained through professional correspondence and mutual visits. His help and advice were available at times when political obstacles made other international contacts difficult to maintain. His book donations to the library of the Botanical Institute of the Faculty of Science are remembered with particular gratitude. In recognition of his merits for the advancement of plant biology in Croatia, professor Haupt was elected honorary member of the Croatian Society of Plant Physiologists.

Professor Haupt was a caring husband and a loving father to his four children. His spouse, Gerda Rohde-Haupt, is a gifted artist who paints marvelous plant pictures. She also



writes poems and songs. Professor Haupt was very fond of her work and helped her to organize expositions, particularly after his retirement. Mrs. Haupt returned his love throughout a long marriage and, most of all, during his last years, when he became bedridden and increasingly weak.

Zvonimir Devidé