

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Ana Šarić



Professor ANA ŠARIĆ, D. Sc., who was a long-term university professor at the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb, died in Zagreb on 16 June 2001.

Ana Šarić began her life's journey on 8 June 1916 in Opuzen. She finished high school in Split in 1934 and graduated in 1939 from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Belgrade. After graduation she worked for a while at the Agricultural Station in Split. From 1945– 1949 she worked in the Institute of Agriculture in Zagreb. In 1946/7 she enrolled as a student in the Biological Department of the Faculty of Science in Zagreb and graduated in 1950. She earned her doctor's degree from the University of Zagreb in 1955 with the thesis: *Research into Myxobacteria on Yugoslav soils*. She got her *habilitation* degree in 1959 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb, with the paper: »A contribution to timber blue staining fungi« and the *habilitation* lecture had the title »*Antitoxic and antiinfection plant reactions*«. Ana Šarić completed her specialisation in virology in 1957 at the Mycology and Virology Department in Pavia under the supervision of Professor R. Cifferi. At the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb she was elected assistant in the Department of Botany in 1949. In 1954 she moved to the Department of Plant Pathology where she worked until she was retired. She was elected assistant in 1962, associate professor in 1968 and professor in 1973.

Professor Šarić held lectures in the graduate and post-graduate courses at the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb, post-graduate courses at the Faculty of Biotechnology in Ljubljana and at the Dipartimento di Biologia Applicata alla Difesa delle Piante at the University of Udine.

She was a member of many professional associations. In addition to other memberships in phytopathological associations (The American Phytopathologists Society, The Association of Phytopathologists of Mediterranean Countries, Croatian Plant Protection Organisation), it is worth emphasising that in 1964 she was one of the founders and a respected member of the International Organisation for Grapevine Virus and Virus-Like Diseases.

Participating regularly in many congresses, advisory meetings and symposia at home and abroad she remained in touch with many expert virologists almost until her death. As she spoke several foreign languages (French, English, Italian, German, Russian), contacts with experts from all areas of virology were easily achieved and carefully nurtured. Consequently, she was often informed of virological news even before it was published.

It could be said that there was hardly a significant virological institution in Europe with which Prof. Ana Šarić did not collaborate. This is best confirmed by the many condolences

that have arrived (Academic J. Maček – Ljubljana, Dr. A. Corte – Genova, Prof. E Reffati, Prof. R. Osler-Udine, Prof. M. Conti, Drs O. Lovisolao, E. Luisoni, V. Lisa, R. Milne-Torino, Prof. R. Bovey-Prangi – Switzerland, Dr. M. Ranković and Dr. I. Dulić-Čačak-Yugoslavia), and an obituary notice in the Petria journal and ICVG Newsletter.

In conditions of modest financial resources, with much self-sacrifice and enthusiasm, she set up the virological laboratory at the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb. She readily mastered and applied new techniques. Research was always directed at the most up-to-date events in the science of phytopathology.

Her retirement did not sign her departure from our branch of studies. For years she worked on projects on plant virology within the Virological Laboratory at the Faculty of Science. She published over 80 papers, alone or as co-author, mostly in recognised international journals. Her last paper was published in the year 2000.

The sphere of her scientific activity can be divided into several fields. The first papers referred to the field of botany, then phytopathogenic fungi and bacteria. She was the first in Croatia to determine *Peyronellea glomerata*, *Stereum purpureum*, and to warn of wood-destroying fungi in mines. The following phase included research into *Bacillus thuringiensis* and bacteriophages, while Myxobacteria was the field in which she earned her doctor's degree.

Together with Professor M. Panjan and Academician D. Miličić – the founders of plant virology in Croatia, Dr. A. Šarić began studying agricultural phytoplasmas and viruses. The objects of research were phytoplasmas on tomatoes, pears, apples, and viruses of cherries, plums, peaches, lettuce, soya, carnations and other cultivated plants.

Still, her greatest love remained viruses and grapevine phytoplasmas, the field in which her contribution was the greatest. She gave a timely warning of the appearance of some quarantine diseases in Croatia e.g. *Citrus tristeza* and *Bois Noir*. She was the first to describe many viruses in Croatia.

She did not forget the practical applicability of her research concerning the choice of pathogen tested material, fruit-trees (apple and citrus fruits) in PIK Neretva and the grapevine in Jastrebarsko area. The first apple and grapevine nursery plants that were certified in Croatia as virus tested material were produced under her supervision.

The width of her humanistic education and erudition were an impressive part of her personality. All of us who collaborated with her will remember the width of her education, both humanistic and biological. Today, when our emotions and thoughts have calmed, we can look back and with even greater respect and admiration feel proud that she was and still is with us.

As an expert phytopathologist and teacher she made a significant contribution to the education of many generations of agronomists and her scientific work enhanced the reputation of Croatian science and the development of its economy. This has left a lasting trace in Croatian virology.

We thank Professor Ana Šarić, for everything she gave us as a scientist, a teacher and a human being.

Prof. B. Cvjetković-Monti

Head of the Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture,
Svetošimunska cesta 25, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

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