

## **The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Biologist Georgeta Teodorescu**



On March 7, 1947, botanist Georgeta Teodorescu (daughter of Gheorghe and Teodora Flenchea) was born in Roman, in Neamț County. In her hometown, she attended primary and secondary schools, and in 1964 she graduated with meritorious grades from the “Roman Vodă” high school. Between the years 1964-1969 she attended the courses of the Department of Biology-Botany (became the Faculty of Biology in 1990) within the Faculty of Biology-Geography. As a student, she stood out for her seriousness, passion and excellent results, so naturally she completed her studies with the best results in her cohort.

Immediately after graduating from the faculty, she held through competition a biologist position at the Botanical Garden in Iași, where she was intensively involved from the very beginning in the organizational activities of the institution recently (1962-1963) transferred to the site on the Copou hill. For a long period of time (1970-1996) she co-ordinated the activity in the World Flora section for which she initially elaborated and transferred to the field the scientific theme.

Starting from 1989 and until her retirement (2004) she coordinated the activity of the Greenhouse Complex, a sector with a remarkable taxonomic diversity that also involved a diversity of challenges. The work of inventorying and monitoring exotic plant collections is all the more valuable when we look at it in the context of that time, characterized by the lack of bibliography in the field and the difficult circulation of information. As the successor to the coordination of this sector I can appreciate firsthand the value of the work of inventorying and determining the species in the collections and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the dedication, tenacity and effort put in. Of the many contributions made to the development of the sector, we mention those related to the coordination and/or organization of various events. With her specific sensitivity and inclination towards the artistic field, she left her mark on the traditional exhibitions of “Azaleas and camellias” and the spaces intended for exotic greenhouse plants in the “Autumn Flowers” exhibitions. Landscaping, floral arrangements and all the decorative elements that highlighted the value of the exhibited plants continue to be valuable sources of inspiration.

Her charismatic presence, together with her oratorical and literary talent, made her valuable through the intense activity of popularizing information about the exotic plants grown in the Greenhouses. Over time, she conducted interesting interviews on radio and television shows and published numerous articles in the print media, appreciated by plant lovers.

The information and experience accumulated during the years of activity were kindly and professionally shared with colleagues from similar institutions (Botanical Gardens in Craiova, Jibou, Galați, Chișinău), where Mrs. Georgeta Teodorescu was requested as a scientific consultant.

Professional improvement and development was a permanent concern for biologist Georgeta Teodorescu. In 1998, she defended her doctoral thesis with the title “Research on the morphology and structure of some plants under parasitic conditions” (scientific supervisor - Professor Constantin Toma, PhD in Biology, member of the Romanian Academy).

As valuable professional she permanently collaborated with her colleagues from the Department of Botany of the Faculty of Biology, where she worked as an associate teacher in the discipline Morphology and plant anatomy, during the period 1994-1996. However, she was involved for a much longer period of time in the activity of educating students, by coordinating or guiding the elaboration of bachelor's or master's theses in fields of study related to the specifics of the Botanical Garden.

In the 35 years of activity, she has published as the sole author or in collaboration, in specialized magazines from the country and abroad, about 80 scientific works in different fields of study: morphology and anatomy, blastogeny, chorology, dendrology, phenology, floriculture. The articles focused on groups of exotic plants (palm trees, ferns, azaleas and camellias, useful species) and the small volume “Crizantema” (in collaboration with Profira Vidrașcu) remain very useful as landmarks in the scientific activity in Botanical Garden of Iași. She participated in numerous symposia where she gave oral communications or appreciated conferences. She was also a collaborator in 6 research projects in which she was involved with tenacity and professionalism.

She was a member of the editorial board of volumes 2 (1982) and 3 (1987) of “Collection of Studies and Articles of Biology” (now Journal of Plant Development) and “Ghidul Grădinii Botanice” from Iași (second edition, revised, 1988) .

Biologist Georgeta Teodorescu's love for plants found its best expression in the volume “Vegetable extravagances”, published in 2004, valuable for the wealth of information, the attractive style of presentation and the unique selection of illustrations.

For all her collaborators, Mrs. G. Teodorescu remains a model of passion, sensitivity, artistic spirit and tenacity, qualities that helped her to meet the challenges determined by the status of a biologist in a Botanical Garden. Even after her retirement, she remained close to the institution where she worked with devotion and continues to collaborate with younger colleagues who are still active.

On my personal behalf, as well as that of the Botanical Garden Iași staff, on the occasion of her 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we wish her good health, beautiful moments with her beloved ones, and energy to complete the projects she works on with great dedication.

Happy anniversary!

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