



### **DR. DUMITRU MURARIU AT HIS 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The famous “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History of Bucharest was led, after that one who gave his name to it, by many directors, among them two special ones, both as zoologists and managers. It is about the well known Constantin Motaş (1944–1948) and Mihai Băcescu (1964–1988). When retired, Mihai Băcescu appointed Dr. Dumitru Murariu in his place, who proved to be worthy of trust. I have to specify only that he certified 12 museologists as senior researchers, after he got the approval of the Ministry of Education and Science in 1991. This way he realized the academicians Grigore Antipa and Mihai Băcescu’s ideal of making this museum a centre of zoological research.

Dumitru Murariu was born on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1940, at Ungureni, in Jijia Valley, from Botoşani County, region where several personalities of Romanian culture and science saw the day light for the first time: Mihai Eminescu, George Enescu, Ştefan Luchian, Nicolae Iorga, Grigore Antipa and Dimitrie Pompeiu. After he graduated the famous “August Treboniu Laurian” High School from Botoşani,

he followed the Faculty of Biology-Geography of “Al. Ioan Cuza” University from Iași, Biology-Zoology Department (1961-1966). His career of biologist started in 1966, in the laboratory of “Pantelimon” TBC Unified Hospital from Bucharest, where he worked till in 1969 as a biologist-bacteriologist. Having there a very good biobase, he collaborated at some projects of scientific research. The results were presented at the sessions of the Society of Medical Sciences of Bucharest, and one of the papers was published in the journal “Fiziologia” (1968).

His love for nature, his wish to dedicate himself to the zoological study, to specialized in a group of animals made him to leave the bacteriological analyses which kept him too much in the laboratory. His chance appeared in 1969 when he gained, by a contest, a position at “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History. Since then, 36 years past, when he was from museologist to senior scientist passing through all hierarchical positions: guide (1969 – 1970), museologist (1970 – 1971), senior museologist (1971 – 1976), head of department (1976 – 1988), senior scientist (since 1991) director (1st of November 1988 – 30th of September 1990) and general director (since the 1st of October 1990). In 1975 he presented his PhD thesis, guided by the Emerit Professor Dr. Docent G. T. Dornescu, named “Integumentary glands of insectivores (Mammalia) from Romania. Anatomy, histology and histochemistry”. Since 2000 he has guided PhD thesis as associate professor at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Bucharest.

Taking into account the activity of the institution where he works, he informed on the educative activities specific to museums (management of the permanent and temporary exhibitions, etc.) and on the scientific collections, in general, and especially on those of mammals. In parallel he collected biological material, especially insectivores for beginning the anatomical, histological and histochemical studies of the integumentary glands, important not only from the structure point of view but also from the ecological, physiological, ethological and systematical one. The first results on the integumentary glandular system in *Sorex araneus* and *Talpa europea*, published in 1969, made Dumitru Murariu to go deeper in this kind of study, choosing it as subject of his PhD thesis.

After the exam for the PhD thesis, he had a Fulbright Scholarship, in USA (16th of September 1975 – 16 of September 1976), working in the museums of natural history from Washington D.C., New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago and Lawrence, for specializing in the mammal morphology, systematics and ecology, as well as for familiarizing with the activity of the museums of USA: collection situation, modern preservation and restauration technics, projects for the permanent and temporary exhibitions, activities with the visitors, etc.

From the biological point of view, the training finished with a paper in collaboration, on the histology and histo-chemistry of the integumentary glands in eight species of North-American shrews.

From the museological point of view, he attended some courses of collection electronic situations and some others of naturalizing animals, sustaining practical exams for the temporary exhibition “Attendants’ fullfilments, 1976”.

In the final part of his training period he visited museums of natural history, natural parks and reservations, botanical and zoological gardens. Thus, he came in touch with well-known mammalogists, he learned new working technics and the management of the American museums and studied the organization or the researching laboratories. When he came back, as head of department, he used his

experience got in United States, proving his abilities in management and organization of the research team.

Fruitful years for the minutely study of the Romanian fauna followed, beginning with the Danube Delta and continuing with the Romanian Plain, the Eastern Carpathians and Sub-Carpathinas, from Prahova Valley to Maramureş, Banat Mountains, Oltenia Plain and Dobrogea horst. The mammals collected by his team or during some collaborations with the Institute of Biology and Genetics Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology (both from Bucharest) were evaluated and published by Dumitru Murariu, who had valuable contributions to the knowledge of the distribution and ecology of the mammals from the investigated area. One of the papers was successfully presented at the International Congress of Genetics from Canada (1988). It has to be remarked the report of *Spalax microphthalmus* in the Oltenia Plain, where it was considered extinct since 1909.

Analyzing the content of over 15000 pellets, Dumitru Murariu published, in collaboration, several papers with exact data on the winter food of some birds of prey, and also with discussions on the eaten biomass and the dynamics of the populations in different mammal species.

Making a synthesis of Dumitru Murariu's publishing activity, during 36 years of research, we found out that it was concretized in 174 papers and articles, written alone or in collaboration, out of which: 88 fundamental scientific papers and 86 on museology or reviews. He was implied in biological studies for 34 contracts with practical application (impact studies and ecological notifications), for 11 of them being co-ordinator. For other seven reports he was project partner, with foreign finances (LIFE, PHARE, BioCASE – in the last one being co-ordinator for Romania and implying "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History as national node).

From the books published by Dumitru Murariu, I mention three volumes of the collection "Din viața mamiferelor" (Life of the mammals) (1988, 1993 and 1998), now working on other three, and four volumes for the Academy collection „Fauna României” (Romanian Fauna): "Insectivora" (2000), "Rodentia" (2001), "Lagomorpha, Cetacea and Artiodactyla" (2004), and "Carnivora" (2005) – this couldn't be easy for anybody! If till 2000 no volume on the Romanian mammals was published, today "Mammalia" is a finished chapter, due to this prolific author's effort and competence. (I have to mention that only the volume on Chiroptera was written by somebody else, i. e. Nicolae Valenciuc, 2002). He is also co-author at the Red Book of the European mammals (published by the European Mammalogical Society), at the Red Book of Romanian vertebrates, and at the book "Chiroptere din România" (Chiropterans of Romania) (2003).

In order to have a general view on Dr. Dumitru Murariu's personality I have to mention his other activities: publishing of reviews on some important books, articles and notes on museology, presentation of scientific papers in different scientific meetings (especially those from the museums of the Romanian counties), symposia; he participated to 23 international congresses and conferences from different European countries and USA; the educational activity consisted in teaching courses on biodiversity and ecology at the Technical University of Constructions (1992 – 1994), and occasional lecturer for the museologists' training courses (1986 – 2004); official reviewer in numerous committees for the doctor's degree; presentation of 85 conferences in the Museum amphitheatre and in different

schools; 130 interviews for written media, radio and TV, as well as many other activities, difficult to described in only a few sentences.

Since 1989, Dr. Dumitru Murariu is the editor-in-chief of “Travaux du Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle <Grigore Antipa>”, an internationally known journal which is sent for exchange in almost 200 institutions and museums from all continents. Since now, he edited 18 volumes.

A special place is that of the two scietifical expeditions of the Museum in Indonesia (1991) and Brasil (1994), with teams of 4, respectively - 6 specialists. From these expeditions, some thousands of specimens of a great value were brought, among them being 40 species new to science and type specimens which were included in the Museum collections. As a matter of fact, the Museum collection are permanently enriched both by the captures made during field trips all over the country or by the acquisition of some collections donated or bought from different specialists.

Many other activities are linked by the management of the Museum and by the cultural marketing, by the organization of the temporary exhibitions with high scietifical and educational value, by the rehabilitation of the museum building (which began in 1996). I want to point out that Dr. Dumitru Murariu’s interest in the knowledge and implementation of the academic principles of the present museology is reflected by the rearrangement of the permanent exhibition following a new vision, modernizing where it was possible, implying the Museum specialists in the acquisition of some new show-cases, installation of some light spots, presentation of the vulcanism phenomena and of a new show case with meteorites, etc.

As director of this institution, he supported his colleagues for different training courses in different museums, institutes of biological research and universities from Europe, North America, South America, Australia and Asia.

Dr. Dumitru Murariu’s recognition is underlined by the large number of citings of his papers in Romanian and foreign specialized literature; by two species new to sciences dedicated to him by his carcinologist colleagues; by the receiving of the title of life member of the Americal Society of Mammalogists (1976), member of the European Mammalogists Society (1997), member of Consulting Committee of “Eurobats” - European Convention (since 1998), of the Scientist Association of Romania (since 1995), of the Naturalist Museologist Association of Romania (1993), of IUCN, Species Conservation Committee – Rodentia (1987), and of the National Geographic Society (1995), as well as by the position of president of the Romanian Federation of Chiropterology (2000). The recognition of his merits is also pointed out by the prizes “Grigore Antipa” and “Mihai Băcescu”, given by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs for 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, for his results in scietifical research and the management of the natural science patrimony. Also, in 2004, he got the Cultural Meirt Order, Officer degree of category E – “National Cultural Patrimony”.

Dr. Dumitru Murariu’s rich scietifical and museological activities and of management raises a question: how does he succeed in achieving so many activities successfully? I think that the answer is the following: he has an unusual working force. This force makes him to work from morning till late in the night (no matter the time is, if somebody calls him, he answers the phone from his laboratory). He is calm, modest and receives anybody at any hour, with the well known Moldavian hospitality, listening patiently. Be preserve these qualities unaltered as much as possible, for the benefit of sciences and of the Museum which he wisely manages!

ȘTEFAN NEGREA

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE PAPERS AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED  
BY DR. DUMITRU MURARIU

1968

- Tratatamentul sputei cu detergenți în mediul alcalin în vederea îmbunătățirii condițiilor de izolare a Mycobacteriilor. Ftiziologia, 2: 133-139. (ANAGNOSTE V., DRĂGHICI A., MURARIU D.) (in Romanian)

1971

- Contribution à la connaissance du système glandulaire chez *Sorex araneus araneus* L. et *Talpa europaea* L. (Mammalia, Ord. Insectivora). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 11: 429-435.

1972

- Observations concerning the form, size, structure and spreading of sebaceous and sudoriferous glands in the *Erinaceus europaeus* L., *Crocidura leucodon* Herm. and *Neomys fodiens* Scrb. (Ord. Insectivora - Mammalia). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 12: 393-405.

1973

- Données macro- et microscopiques sur les organes glandulaires latéraux chez *Sorex araneus* L., *Neomys fodiens* Schreb. et *Crocidura leucodon* Herm. de Roumanie. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 13: 445-458.
- Contribuții la cunoașterea faunei de mamifere mici (Insectivora și Rozătoare) din împrejurimile localității Cheia - jud. Prahova. Comunicări și referate, Muzeul de Științele Naturii Ploiești: 193-200. (ANDREESCU I., MURARIU D.) (in Romanian)

1974

- L'histologie des glandes plantaires chez les Mammifères Insectivores de Roumanie. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 15: 381-392.

1975

- Les glandes de la région anale chez quelques Soricidés (Insectivora). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 16: 295-302.
- Études anatomo-histologique des glandes de la région anale et circumanale chez *Erinaceus europaeus* et *Talpa europea* (Insectivora). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 16: 303-312.
- Some considerations of the series of popularization lectures given at the Natural History Museum „Gr. Antipa“, over the 1973-1974 period. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 16: 399-408. (DUMITRESCU D., MURARIU D., MANOLELI D.)

1976

- Cl. Mammalia. In: Contributions à la connaissance de la faune du Nord-Est de la Plaine de Roumanie, entre le Siret, le Danube et la Ialomița. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 17: 237-244.
- Cl. Mammalia. In: Contribution à la connaissance de la faune du Département Vrancea. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 17: 335-340.
- Les glandes tégumentaires de certains Insectivores (Mammalia, Insectivora) de Roumanie. Anatomie, histologie et histochimie. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 17: 386-413.

1979

- Notes on the ecology of some representatives of the Orders Insectivora and Rodentia (Mammalia) from Vrancea, Buzău and Argeș districts (Romania). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (1): 485-497. (MURARIU D., ANDREESCU I.)
- *Microtus agrestis bailloni* (De Selys-Longchamps, 1841) - Mammalia, Rodentia en Roumanie. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (1): 513-519. (MURARIU D., TORCEA ȘT., ANDREESCU I.)
- Contributions à la connaissance de la faune de Mammifères des départements d'Ilfov et de Teleorman (Roumanie). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (1): 499-511. (ANDREESCU I., TORCEA ȘT., MURARIU D.)
- Les conférences publiques données au Muséum d'Histoire naturelle „Grigore Antipa“ durant les années 1953-1978. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (2): 687-718. (DUMITRESCU D., MURARIU D., GĂLDEAN N., MANOLELI D.)
- La préoccupation pour l'éducation des masses. In: Le Professeur Mihai Băcescu à son 70-ème anniversaire. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (2): 583-588.
- Liste des travaux publiés par Mihai Băcescu. In: Le Professeur Mihai Băcescu à son 70-ème anniversaire. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (2): 596-612. (MURADIAN Z., MURARIU D.)
- Liste des interviews, conférences, tables rondes, émission à la radio, T.V. etc. In: Le Professeur Mihai Băcescu à son 70-ème anniversaire. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (2): 612-614.
- Le Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“ représenté aux manifestations scientifiques nationales et internationales. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 20 (2): 759-803. (POPESCU-GORJ A., MURARIU D.)
- An understanding of the evolution of animals on the basis of Comparative anatomy evidence in the Exhibition of the Natural History Museum „Grigore Antipa“. ICOM Natural History Museum. Newsletters, Nr.5: 8 pages. (MURARIU D., ANDREESCU I.)

1980

- Cunoștințe obligatorii pentru muzeografia de științe naturale. „Muzeul și Educația Socialistă“. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, București, 2: 82-89. (BĂCESCU M., MURARIU D.) (in Romanian)
- Données faunistiques sur les petits Mammifères (Insectivores et Rongeurs) du département de l'Argeș (Roumanie). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 21: 275-284. (MURARIU D., ANDREESCU I.)
- Données faunistiques et écologiques sur les mamifères de la Plaine Roumaine. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 22 (1): 329-335. (MURARIU D., TORCEA ȘT., ANDREESCU I.)
- Histology and histochemistry of specialised integumentary glands in eight species of North American shrews (Mammalia, Insectivora). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 22 (2): 547-569. (BEE J. W., MURARIU D., HOFFMANN R. S.)
- Observations faunistiques sur les Insectivores (Mammalia, Insectivora) de la Plaine Roumaine, entre la Ialomița et l'Olt. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 22 (2): 571-585. (MURARIU D., ANDREESCU I., TORCEA ȘT.)
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1981

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- Gheorghe T. Dornescu. Ocrotirea mediului înconjurător. *Natura, Terra*, 32: (ianuarie-iulie). (ANDREESCU I., MURARIU D.) (in Romanian)

1982

- Régime alimentaire du Moyen-Duc (*Asio otus*) au cours de deux hivers, dans le sud de la Roumanie. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 24: 203-208. (MURARIU D., TĂLPEANU M., ANDREESCU I., PASPALEVA M.)
- Recherches sur les Mammifères de la Plaine Roumaine (entre la Ialomița et l'Olt. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 24: 233-245. (MURARIU D., TORCEA ȘT., ANDREESCU I.)
- La capture de petits Mammifères terrestres, vivants, à l'aide d'un nouveau type de piège. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 24: 248-250. (TORCEA ȘT., MURARIU D.)
- L'exposition temporaire „Oiseaux et Mammifères de Roumanie, de grande importance économique“. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 24: 289-290 + 2 figs.
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1984

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- Données préliminaires concernant l'étude du caryotype de *Micromys minutus* (Pallas, 1771) (Rodentia, Muridae). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 26: 241-244. (LUNGEANU A., GAVRILĂ L., STEPAN C., MURARIU D.)
- The occurrence of the species *Spalax isticus* Méhely, 1909 (Rodentia, Spalacidae) in the Romanian Plain. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 26: 245-249. (MURARIU D., TORCEA ȘT.)
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1985

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- Preliminary data concerning the study of the karyotype of *Eliomys quercinus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Mammalia, Gliridae). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 27: 325-328. (MURARIU D., LUNGEANU A., GAVRILĂ L., STEPAN C.)
- Comparative anatomy of the mammary glands of some European and North American insectivores. *Acta Zoologica Fennica*, 173: 243-245.
- Contribuții la cunoașterea faunei de mamifere din Ostrovul Mare. Mehedinți. Muzeul Regiunii Porțile de Fier, Drobeta. 6: 347-353. (TORCEA ȘT., MURARIU D.) (in Romanian)

1986

- The distribution of the constituent heterochromatin and the G-banding pattern in the genom of *Apodemus agrarius* (Pallas, 1771) (Mammalia, Muridae). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 28: 267-270. (LUNGEANU A., GAVRILĂ L., STEPAN C., MURARIU D.)
- New contributions to the cytogenetic study of *Microtus epiroticus* (Ondrias, 1966) (Mammalia, Arvicolidae). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 28: 271-274. (GAVRILĂ L., LUNGEANU A., STEPAN C., MURARIU D.)
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- Și mamiferele pescuiesc. Almanahul Vnătorul și Pescarul Sportiv: 168-169. (in Romanian)

1987

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- Aspecte faunistice și ecologice privind mamiferele din nord-vestul României. Studii și Cercetări de Biologie, Seria Biologie Animală, 38 (2): 91-95. (in Romanian)

1988

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- Ghidul colecțiilor Nr. 3 - Mamifere. București (reprinted), în editura Muzeului „Grigore Antipa“, reprinted in 1989 (Ed. a III-a): 1-73. (in Romanian)

1989

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- Important specimens preserved in the „Grigore Antipa“ Museum of Natural History - Bucharest, Romania. Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 30: 389-395.
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- Din viața mamiferelor. Mamifere terestre. Edit. Academiei Române, 1: 1-208. (in Romanian)

1990

- V. E. Sokolov, R. P. Jenevskaia - Ecologo funkcionalnaya morfologiya kozhnovo pokrova mlekopitayuschi. Moskva „Nauka“, 1988 (review), 8 pp.
- V. E. Sokolov, L. N. Skurat, L. V. Stepanova, E. B. Sumina, S. A. Sabadaș - Rukovedstvo po izucheniiu kojnovo, pokrova mlekopitayuschi. Moskva, „Nauka“, 1988 (review), 4 pp.
- Centenary of Natural Science Museum in Berlin (review), 4 pp.
- Importante „documente“ ale naturii în Muzeul de Istorie Naturală „Grigore Antipa“. A 11-a Sesiune a Muzeului de Istorie și Artă a Municipiului București: 13-20. (in Romanian)

1991

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1992

- Contributions to the knowledge of the specialized tegumental glands from *Crocidura zaodon* Osgood, 1910 (Insectivora. Soricidae). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 32: 363-369.
- Centenary of Natural Sciences Museum in Berlin (review). Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“, 32: 515-516 + 1 p.
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