



#### PROFESSOR CONSTANTIN BOGOESCU, 90 YEARS OLD

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1991 the Natural History Museum "Grigore Antipa" celebrated Professor Constantin Bogoescu for his venerable age of 90.

As a student of this great professor, I shall try to present, on the whole, his entire work throughout almost 50 years of scientific and didactic activity.

He was born on 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1901 in Izvoru Birzei commune of Mehedinți District (Romania). In 1923 he graduates "Traian" High-School of Turnu Severin, and then he attends the courses of the Natural Sciences Faculty of Bucharest, where he is distinguished as an eminent student. Therefore, from his student days, he is named post graduate student for the Descriptive Zoology Department of Bucharest, at prof. Popovici Biznoșanu. In 1926 he graduates this faculty successfully and on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1927 he is named deputy professor at this department, carrying on a valuable scientific and didactic activity.

After some remarks concerning the ants biology and the hydrobiological study upon the alpine swamps of Bucegi Mountains, the Prof. Bogoescu's studies direct upon water insects, respectively upon Plecoptera and, especially, Ephemeroptera.

These diaphanes insects attracted him as far back as his first years of activity. Therefore, prof. Bogoescu dedicated them many hours in order to study them, to observe their elegant fly. And, that is why in 1927, he went in for the doctor's degree with the paper "A study upon the morphology and biology of the phanera of Ephemeroptera larvae" having as a guiding professor Mr. Popovici Biznoșanu. In his first paper concerning this group, published in 1930 in the "Journal of Romanian Academy", he described a new species of Ephemeroptera, *Habroleptoides carpatica*, which was followed by another one, also published in the "Journal of the Academy" in 1931, in which he described the remarkable Ephemeroptera species of rapidly flowing water *Acentrella sinaica*. He maintained his thesis for the doctor's degree in 1932, obtaining the mention "very well with distinction". This mention was also sustained by the great scientist, specialized in Neuroptera, Prof. J. A. Lestage, the director of the Hydrobiology Aquarium of Bruxells. Besides the thorough study upon the morphology and the physiological part of phanera, within the conclusions of this thesis he raised several important questions of general biology as: the orthogenesis, the environmental adaptation or the coaptation phenomenon. This thesis was also an excelent basis for his further systematic researches concerning the Ephemeroptera order. Prof. Bogoescu described a series of new taxa for the science, as such *Pseudocentropitulum* genus, with a species dedicated to Prof. C. Motaș, *P. motasi*, which was found later in Greece, *Pseudocloeon hyalopterum*, redescovered in Jugoslavia and Bulgaria, *Centropitulum romanicum* and *C. nana*, redescovered in Poland and Lituania, *Baetis*

*gracilis*, also redesccovered in Poland, *Leuctra hirsuta*, redesccovered in Bulgaria as well as other species which are probably endemic as: *Habroleptoides carpatica*, *Acentrella sinaica* or *Rhitrogena grisocolata*.

Being very much appreciated owing to his didactic activity, on July the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1932 he is named assistant lecturer in ordinary of Prof. Popovici Biznoşanu Descriptive Zoology Department. In 1935 he passed the capability exam for secondary professor title. In 1939 he is named chief of the laboratory works at the same department. Within the Descriptive Zoology Laboratory he led the practical works with the students, to whom he taught all the groups of animals, from Protozoa to Mammalia. Because the laboratory was endowed with a section of applied entomology and with a rich entomological library, he taught his students important studies upon the main insects orders, both from systematical, anatomical and biological point of view and from point of the damages and the utilities they are able to bring about.

In every autumn and spring he organized trips together with his students in different areas around Bucharest. Here he explained them many interesting things concerning the biology of the animals that they had met; in the same time he collected some of these animals in order to use them at the dissections made during the laboratory classes; during summer time, together with the staff of his laboratory, he made a lot of trips for studying different mountaineous and plain areas and for collecting scientific and didactic material. In the summer of 1929 and 1936 he worked at the Zoological Station of Agigea where he studied marine faune of the Romanian seaside and in the summer of 1936 he worked at the Bio-Oceanographical Institute of Split (the Coast of Dalmatia) from where he brought a rich didactic material.

Within the Zoology Department of the Biology Faculty of Bucharest he taught the general zoology cours to the students of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of study from the Geology-Geography Faculty, Biology Section, general entomology cours to the students of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study and that of hydrobiology to the students of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study from the Biology Faculty; then he taught the cours of vertebrate zoology at the Pedagogical Institute, the general zoology cours for the students of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of study at the Biological Chemistry Section of the Chemistry Faculty of Bucharest and the cours of zoogeography to the students of the Pedagogical Institute of Bucharest. In 1957 he is certified as lecturer and in 1964 as university professor.

He synthetized all the studies concerning the Ephemeroptera of Romania in the volum "Ephemeroptera" of the series "The Roumanian Fauna". In a letter received from Prof. Alain Thomas, its author shows his happiness for learning about Prof. Bogoescu's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and says: "The publication of the "Ephemeroptera Fauna or Romania" in 1958 constituted a pioneering gesture at an European level in a time when the study upon Ephemeroptera had been left behind in comparison with the knowledge level of the other water insect orders. For this reason, Prof. Bogoescu must be congratulated warmly".

It also must be said that the professor was a passionate researcher of the Ephemeroptera biology. In 1933 he published remarks concerning the way in which the Ephemeroptera lay its eggs, and in 1939, at the International Entomology Congress of Berlin he presented a paper in which there are synthetized a series of biological remarks upon these insects. For years he also studied and published notes referring to the sequence of Ephemeroptera larvae along the flowing waters and analized the causes which bring about this sequence. In 1973 he published an ethological and ecological paper in which there are studied the causes of the Ephemeroptera flying upstream for laying their eggs as well as the causes of the larvae dispersion.

In order to materialize all his remarks made along his didactic and scientific activity, prof. Bogoescu, published, in Romania and abroad alone or in co-operation, over 40 papers concerning the systematics and the biology of Ephemeroptera. One of those papers was awarded a prize by the Romanian Academy. In co-operation, he wrote 4 didactic textbooks for the general, secondary and higher education and guided numerous scientists in the examining board for the doctor's degree. Also, he was very much concerned about the populatization of science, writing, in co-operation, several papers. As an example it has to be mentioned the paper regarding homocromy and mimesis.

In 1967 he was awarded a title of "doctor docent" in Biological Sciences and in 1970 he retired becoming consulting professor. He is member of the Naturalists Society of Romania and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of Romania. He is also member of the Zoology Society of France.

In the wake of this brief presentation it has to be noticed Prof. C. Bogoescu's wide interest in studying the Ephemeroptera order and his important didactic activity carried on especially within the Biology Faculty.

When he reached the age of 90, numerous professors from Romania and abroad sent letters in order to pay homage to the entire activity of this great Romanian scientist. Among them there are: dr. doc. Ingrid Müller-Liebenau, Plön (Germany); prof. Dr. A. Thomas, Toulouse (France); prof. dr. Francis Pôr, Jerusalem; (Israël) dr. L. Botoșăneanu, Amsterdam (Holland); prof. dr. J. Aubert, Lausanne (Switzerland); prof. dr. William L. Peters, Florida (U.S.A.) etc. As one of his students I had the opportunity of knowing him and his method of activity yet in we worked within the Zoological Station of Sinaia where he was studying the Ephemeroptera biology while I was preparing my thesis for the doctor's degree.

I wish prof. Bogoescu, our distinguished biologist and remarkable scientists, known all over the world, many years of happy life, healthfulness, joy and new scientific achievements.

AURELIAN POPESCU-CORJ