

*Contribuții Botanice* – 2022, LVII: 153-154  
Grădina Botanică “Alexandru Borza”  
Cluj-Napoca

## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. ION SÂRBU**

(17.09.1933 - T. Vladimirescu commune, Galați county – 26.07.2022 - Iași)



At the end of July, the Romanian as well as the European botany have lost our last great contemporary florist, with notable interests in the field of plant ecology (phytosociology) and zoology (biodiversity conservation), but also in the training of young specialists.

But, above the researcher and teacher Ion Sârbu, the community of Romanian botanists has lost a special personality, thus characterized by its closest and most successful collaborator, the young Dr. Adrian Oprea: "*Sensitive soul, communicative, friendly, open to dialogue, reliable, always ready to help anyone in difficult moments, he was appreciated with respect and consideration by his collaborators, both for his professional qualities and for his spirit of humanity, kindness, and understanding*" (2022, in press).

Ion Sârbu was born in the Tudor Vladimirescu commune (Galați county). He attended primary school in his natal commune and moved during the secondary and pedagogical high school in Galați. After working as a teacher for about 8 years in his hometown, he attended (between 1959 - 1964) the courses of the Biology section of the "Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, obtaining a diploma in the Biology-Geography specialty. He then worked as a secondary school teacher, then in 1968 he was called to Iași, where he held a biologist position at the Botanical Garden "A. Fătu", and after obtaining the title of Doctor of Biology (1978) he went through all the professional steps up to the first-degree scientific researcher. In this institution, a component part of the University of Iași, he worked until his retirement (in 2003) getting involved a lot, since the beginning, in didactic activities with the students. However, his retirement did not mean the end of his activity, but he carried on, with the same passion and calm analysis, the finalization of some projects and

the publication of synthesis works, made in collaboration (e.g. *Les associations végétales de Roumanie. Les associations anthropogènes*, vol. 2, 2012; *Plante vasculare din România. Determinator ilustrat de teren*, 2013 etc.).

In his more than 40 years of activity, Dr. Ion Sârbu addressed issues related to the flora and vegetation of Moldova and particularly of the Danube Delta, highlighting some non-native species in the country, as well as the conservation of plant species and communities of scientific importance. He was also a collaborator on the important work *Atlas Florae Europaeae* (1999, 2000, 2004). More than 120 scientific articles published in domestic and foreign journals, 22 books or book chapters (of which 4 appeared abroad), and 24 research projects, 7 of which were carried out in collaboration with specialists from Austria, Holland, Slovakia, Great Britain, and the USA summarizes the scientific achievement of the late Dr. Ion Sârbu.

As co-author of the work "*Flora lemnoasă spontană și cultivată din România*" (vol. I-IV, 1996, 2000, 2004), Dr. Ion Sârbu obtained, in 2006, the *Emanoil Teodorescu Award* granted by the Romanian Academy, and his entire scientific activity was recognized on a European level by awarding, in 2007, the *Carl Linné prize*, offered by Planta Europa.



Cluj-Napoca, September 2007, receiving the *Carl Linné* award

His professionalism, the calm presentation of his opinions, his love for nature, and, in particular, the generosity with which he offered the accumulated knowledge to all those eager for knowledge were qualities that led us to pay him due respect and seek his company both in the laboratory and especially in the field, in the applications organized by our universities or the Association of Botanical Gardens in Romania.

This is why we mourn this loss and we wanted our magazine to pay a pious tribute to the one who was Dr. Ion Sârbu and who will always remain alive in our memory.

***God rest him in peace!***

VASILE CRISTEA