

The life and work of professor dr. Ljubomir Mišić (1933 – 2018)

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Professor Dr. Ljubomir Mišić was born on 10 September 1933 in Nišor, Pirot Municipality, Serbia. He attended primary school in Tamnjanica and high school in Pirot. He graduated in 1960 from the Faculty of the Humanities in Sarajevo, having studied in the Biology group of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. As an undergraduate eligible for higher degree he worked for a short while as a laboratory assistant at the Faculty of Agriculture in Sarajevo, where he was appointed to the post of assistant lecturer of Botany on 15 January 1962. He defended his doctoral dissertation, "Meadow and pasture vegetation on Mt. Treskavica," at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Sarajevo on 22 February 1985, and was appointed to the post of senior lecturer of Botany at the Faculty of Agriculture, Sarajevo University, that same year. Dr. Mišić's productive scientific research work and numerous monographs, course notes, manuals and textbooks led to his promotion on 17 February 1987 to the post of Reader of Botany at the Faculty of Agriculture, Sarajevo University. He had a good knowledge of Russian, Bulgarian, German and French.



Professor Dr. Ljubomir Mišić

From his first appointment in 1962, Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić spent his entire working life without a break at the Faculty of Agriculture in Sarajevo. In addition to his regular duties at the faculty, he was also engaged at the University's Biology Institute, and taught in the Biology Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Forestry Faculty in Sarajevo. He remained in Sarajevo throughout the war against Bosnia and Herzegovina, teaching Botany and Fundamentals of Plant Production in three departments of the Faculty of Agriculture. Without the support of a junior lecturer or laboratory assistant, he was responsible for the entire teaching process – lectures, laboratory work, examinations and colloquia, not only at his parent faculty but also, from 1992, at the Forestry Faculty.

Despite carrying this considerable burden of teaching at these two faculties both before, during and after the war, Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić also pursued his scientific work, achieving some very remarkable results. He had an intimate knowledge of meadow vegetation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and his doctoral dissertation, "Meadow and pasture vegetation on Mt. Treskavica," remains unsurpassed on the subject. The crowning achievement of his wealth of experience and years of research into meadow and pasture vegetation was the publication in 1989 of *Livadske biljke* (Meadow plants) in the series Nature of Yugoslavia by Svjetlost, a prominent publishing house at that time together with the Institutes for Textbooks and Teaching Materials in Sarajevo and Belgrade.

The results of Prof. Ljubomir Mišić's thorough analysis of the flora and vegetation of the meadows and pastures of the Dinarics, with particular reference to Bosnia and Herzegovina, became an important source for phytogeographers, systematicists and botanists working in Yugoslavia and beyond. The breadth of his floristic discoveries was complemented by his detailed biosystematic approach to the analysis of each species. His serious attention to idioecological, phyto-coenological, chorological and syngenetic research enabled him to consider a given species through the lens of population-genetic expression and its anatomical, morphological, ecological, chorological and other characteristics. Thus the dignity of a modern biosystematicist who found a place in the latest revision of the flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still upheld.

Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić had a particular interest in medicinal and aromatic plants, and was very familiar with the value of the wild flora for the treatment of both human and animal ailments.

He had his own living collection of medicinal plants near Sarajevo, where he would spend his spare time among them in his garden, benefiting as a natural scientist and botanist

from this direct contact with the plant world and thereby acquiring and extending his knowledge of medicinal plants in the most direct manner. He was always happy to give medicinal plants from his garden to his colleagues – I myself (Dubravka Šoljan).= still have a splendid sage bush (*Salvia officinalis*) grown from a cutting given to me by Prof. Mišić. Whenever I see that sage bush I remember my dear colleague – he lives there still!

Prof. Mišić conveyed the knowledge and experience, acquired above all from years of field work in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as beyond, to his students in class, as well as in his course notes, textbooks and scholarly works. His knowledge of medicinal plants from a scientific perspective, and in particular the production potential of the wild flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina, enabled him to consider every opportunity for the cultivation and use of medicinal, aromatic, culinary and fodder plants in modern agricultural production. He incorporated this knowledge with great success into his Fundamentals of Plant Production course at the Faculty of Agriculture.

There can be no doubting the magnitude of Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić's contribution as a researcher and scientist to floristic, systematic and phytogeographical studies of the endemic flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His knowledge of the genus *Gentiana* was unparalleled, particularly of the species native to the south-eastern Dinarics, such as *Gentiana kochiana*, *G. acaulis*, *G. dinarica*, and *G. symphyandra*. He conducted extensive comparative biosystematic studies on these species, which led to the publication of a number of major papers.

It is clear from all this that Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić made an outstanding contribution to the development of the botanical sciences, with particular emphasis on systematics, ecology, and the anatomy, cytology and morphology of plants. The result of his research and tireless life's work was the publication of some 30 scientific works, four monographs, and about 40 studies, reports, scientific projects and evaluations. He wrote two textbooks, two manuals and one set of course notes used in teaching prospective graduate agricultural engineers. All this earned him a place among the most productive scientists and experts who have left their imprint on the time and place where they worked.

Professor Ljubomir Mišić was also much appreciated by his students as an excellent lecturer and teacher, with a gift for artistic expression. His drawings on the blackboard complemented and brought to life the botany of which he was speaking. His course notes and textbooks too were filled with the splendid original drawings for which he was known and valued by his students and colleagues. He was kind and



Professor Ljubomir Mišić with his fellow botanists (L to R: Nikola Janjić, Željka Bjelčić, Petar Grgić, Lijerka Kutleša, Dubravka Šoljan and Sabaheta Abadžić).

patient with his students, always ready to help them master the course materials.

As already noted, Prof. Mišić participated in a great many scientific projects, in each of which he was extremely cooperative, conscientious and precise in executing his particular tasks. He was responsible for the Fabaceae family, with which he was very familiar, as part of the *Index florum* of Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving botanists from 1996 to 1997. He carried out this task with exemplary thoroughness, and prepared the text for publication in the planned series of papers in the Journal of the National Museum. Sadly, the paper was not published until 2014, as the first part of the series *Index florum Bosnae et Hercegovinae*.

The Sarajevo University Council awarded him a Plaque with diploma in 1989 for his very productive and successful teaching and scientific work, which along with his collaboration with

leading institutions in the field of biology also earned him the Plaque of the Biology Institute of Sarajevo University.

We shall remember Professor Ljubomir Mišić as a kind, modest, retiring and remarkable man, whose face always bore a gentle, sweet smile. His clear brown eyes revealed his lively spirit and depth of intelligence. He was extremely caring and helpful towards his colleagues. He will live on in our memories for his benevolence, his diligence, and his courteous relations with his colleagues.

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NOTE

In addition to the works listed above, Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Mišić also published scholarly works, contributed numerous papers at congresses, symposia and consultations, and carried out various studies and evaluations, as well as producing many scientific and artistic illustrations for his own textbooks and those of other authors.