



DR. GEORGETA FABIAN GALAN AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Georgeta Fabian Galan was born on the 22nd of April, 1928 in Grojdibod locality, Romanați region (today's Olt region), being the only daughter among the four children of the Galan family. She attended the primary school in Moreni locality from Prahova region.

All the difficult problems generated by the World War II occurred in the Galan family, too. The father, as a forester, many times was forced to change his workplace, and also the family's place. As a consequence, Georgeta Galan was forced to continue her high school studies in different localities. She attended the High School for Girls "Principesa Elisabeta" from Brașov, than the Theoretical High School for Girls "Ecaterina Teodoroiu" from Târgu-Jiu, and in last years she attended the High School "Ștefan Popescu" from Corabia. She graduated the highschool from Caracal, where Acad. Mihnea Gheorghiu, as a committee president, was in charge at the time.

In 1948, she started her University studies, at The Faculty of Natural Sciences, the Biological Section from University of Bucharest; the passion of nature study being probably inherited from her father's side.

The future physiologist, well known in our country and abroad, has graduated the University studies in 1952 with excellent results. The Graduation Paper entitled "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Leaf" elaborated under the coordination of Prof. I.T. Tarnavski, an eminent teacher, emphasized since then the passion and background knowledge for the domain that she would start studying profoundly. She received, by governmental repartition a stagier researcher job in the team of Plant Physiology of the Romanian Academy, headed at the time by Acad. N. Sălăgeanu. During that time she was working also with the Plant physiology research teams of the Faculty of Biology, the Laboratory of Plant Physiology of the Institute of Biology, and between 1976–1986, after a governmental protocol of job changing she was employed to the ICCPT-Fundulea.

In 1958, she got married to Dr. I. Fabian, a remarkable scientist, whose name was connected to important plant physiology accomplishments. She will be a loyal life companion and a closed friend for 40 years, until 1998, when he passed away.

As a young researcher, Georgeta Fabian Galan had got the chance to learn and specialize in high scientific level institutions from Europe, where she did some long work stages.

Between 1956 and 1957, she learned in the Institute of Plant Physiology "Komarov" from Leningrad, today – "St. Petersburg" (Russia), specific techniques for photosynthesis study using C¹⁴, a modern method for that time.

In 1960, at the "CNRS-Laboratoire de Photosynthèse" from Gif sur Yvette (France) she specialized in photosynthesis of primary product assays.

In 1961, at the “Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie” from Halle (Germany) she learned the leaf proteins separation technique;

In 1977, at the “Institut für Pflanzenzüchtung“ from Braunschweig (Germany) she improved her technical skills by learning the maize tissue and cell culture, a very modern technique at that time;

In 1979, she realized scientific experience exchanges, in photosynthesis domain, with some important academic and university research institutions from China, and she continued to collaborate with them for several years.

All that knowledge, accumulated during these specializations, influenced her scientific career, by increasing her background into the experimental biology domain and particularly in plant physiology, allowing her to become one of the greatest specialists in plant physiology from our country.

Dr. Georgeta Fabian Galan is considerably remarkable through the studies regarding:

- Phosphorous and potassium deficiencies influence on aminoacid content from sunflower;
- Photosynthesis and transport analysis in depleted NPK plants;
- Photosynthesis and transport during fruit development;
- S, Mg²⁺ and N deficiencies influence on leaf protein synthesis;
- Nutrition study to cuscuta and some carnivore plants (*Drosera capensis*) using C¹⁴;
- Photosynthesis study at *Cyanobacteria*;
- Nutrient exchange in lichens, by using microradiography;
- Drought productivity and resistance studies of different maize hybrids, under normal and irrigation conditions.

During 1964 she finalized her Ph.D. thesis entitled “Daily variation of photosynthesis intensity and products” having as a Ph.D. conductor the acad. N. Sălăgeanu.

Her prodigious scientific activity was rewarded with some important prizes like:

The Prize “Em. Teodorescu” of the Romanian Academy, in 1966 for “The photosynthesis intensity and some leaf substances content during a day” – a scientific paper; the medal “Scientific Merit”, in 1966, for her scientific activity.

For over 50 years of scientific activity she elaborated and published an important number of scientific papers in prestigious reviews from our country and also from abroad. (Bull. Soc. Biol.–France, Biologia and Biologhiceschi Jurnal-Russia). With some of these papers she attended important international scientific meetings in Russia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria (in CAER collaboration frame). By all this enormous work she left a rich and very valuable scientific knowledge for the future physiologists.

Her entire activity was devoted with a total abnegation and passion for the domain were she was working, continuing in this way the Romanian school tradition in plant physiology, founded by Em. Teodorescu and N. Sălăgeanu distinguished scientists, and to whom she was a closed collaborator for the most part of her scientific activity.

Extremely passionate scientist, also meticulous and scrupulous, extremely modest and full of comprehension, has never known the peace. In her laboratory, she used to work until late in the night and the laboratory door remained open for all persons that had the desire to learn or to get an appropriate advice.

Her excellent knowledge in French, English, German, Russian and Italian languages, very rare thing for those times, which together with the knowledge desire made the Fabian family a model for the youngest researchers.

After 1986, she retired, and ever since she lived an extremely serene life next to her husband. She still was in touch with all her colleagues and young scientists. They found a real support in Dr. Fabian, as with her was possible to openly discuss a lot of issues from science, art, literature, music also the matters of life.

She continued to work as an active member of the Editorial Board of some journals of the Romanian Academy, the “Revue Roumaine de Biologie-Botanique series (today’s Biologie végétale) and “Studii și Cercetări de Biologie/Botanică series” (the today’s “Biologie vegetală”), getting important contributions in rising their scientific level. She was nominated in the Ph.D. reference committees for exams, essays and thesis analysis.

For the tireless activity generally devoted to the Romanian plant biology and particularly to plant physiology, she was granted in 2000 with the “Diploma for contributions to the biological sciences development” at the 40 years of existence anniversary of the Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy.

Now, when Dr. Georgeta Fabian Galan is celebrating her 75th anniversary, all of us who know her, who collaborated with her, the former colleagues, disciples and friends wish her many happy returns, to have a peaceful and healthy life. “Happy Birthday Distinguished Lady!”

Dr. Aurelia Brezeanu

Prof. Dr. C. Toma,

Correspondent member of the Romanian Academy