

## MODEST GUŢU, PhD BIOLOGIST-ZOOLOGIST, AT THE ANNIVERSARY OF 80 YEARS

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency Dr. Modest GUŢU! If it were possible I would have said, with all certainty, Happy Birthday, Sir!

I address this unusual appellation in our scientific environments to mark not only the anniversary of the beautiful age, but also the octogenarian's remarkable activity. A scientist full of passion, hardworking, modest, devoted to his profession, who kept beyond the endless and sterile discussions of the colleagues or of the media, whose work tools were the microscope, the patience, the spirit of observation, the discernment, the critical analysis, all used to orientate correct in life and extract a few values from too much sterile. Eighty years of fruitful life, 52 years spent in the temple of nature, the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest, the ark that reveals all the jewels of nature and teaches them about the millions of living creatures of Earth and Waters.

I do not know exactly when I first met him, but whenever I made a visit to my master on the knowledge way of ecology of the Black Sea, the Academician Mihai Băcescu, who introduced the carcinological research in the museum he was leading, I stopped for a few moments in my colleague Modest GUŢU's lab. It was

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a "hermitage" with two desks, one with the microscope and many small receptacles with precious samples and one with the typewriter, between them being an old swivel chair, from Grigore Antipa's time, and another ordinary one, for guests, who could hardly fit into so tight a room.

I was going to Modest to change a few words, to a "coffee", which he was preparing for as a ceremony. And then, we were telling each other what we were doing, which were our progress and plans, which were the hardships, what our families did for us... Once, I was impressed by a true story that I will never forget... His father, who came through the storms of the times from Bessarabia, clandestinely passed the Prut River (border line between Romania and the Soviet Union, after the World War II), one night, only to smoke a cigarette on its invaded land... For me, my colleague who made such a confession, at a time when silence had to be order, remained in my heart. At that time, the memories of Romania's tragedies, of the Romanian people were forbidden, and the most courageous ones told them whispering, and only when they were very well convinced with whom they were discussing.

The place where his father wanted to smoke is on a Prut River loop (called Zamca, now being a geological reservation), located in the perimeter of his native village, Pererita (documentarily attested in 1623), where he had inherited a piece of land from his parents. It is the same locality where was born and grew up the late poet Grigore Vieru (1935–2009; left for the kingdom of the stars after a tragic car accident while returning from a homage ceremony of the unequaled Romanian poet Mihai Eminescu), whose poems played an important role in reviving the national consciousness of the Romanians in Bessarabia.

# MODEST GUŢU'S ORIGIN, WAY OF LIFE AND OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Modest Guţu was born on March 14, 1937 in the town of Lipcani, Hotin County (today, Republic of Moldova). The city, founded in 1699 (but the first historical mention of Lipcani dates back to 1429), had a tumultuous history, as its own people had (pogroms, deportations). Lipcani is located in the north-western corner of the country, on the bank of the Prut River, which is the border between the Republic of Moldova and Romania; the border with Ukraine is a few kilometers to the northwest. The closest urban centers to Lipcani are Cernăuţi and Hotin (today in Ukraine), Botoşani and Dorohoi (Romania) and Bălţi (Republic of Moldova).

During World War II, March 1944, when the Red Army approached Romania's borders, his parents fled to the old Kingdom, settling in the village of Miorcani (Botoșani County), located on the right bank of the Prut River; so he avoided his relatives' fate deported to Siberia in 1940, when Bessarabia was temporarily annexed by the Soviet Union. More than 120 years ago, in Miorcani, the great poet Ion Pillat, academician, essayist and journalist (related to the famous Romanian political

family, Brătianu, who gave some very important personalities for the modern history of Romania), grew up, and later on he came for the holidays. As a matter of fact, the manor house and the outskirts of Miorcani were evoked by Ion Pillat in his poems such as "My Village", "Evening at Miorcani", "The House of Walls", "Travel Journal".

The child and later the youngster Modest GUŢU attended primary school and gymnasium at the school of the mentioned village, and then he graduated from the theoretical high school in the city of Dorohoi in 1954.

Being interested in physics and mathematics, he enrolled in the admission contest at the Faculty of Electrotechnics in Iaşi, but after checking his political file, as the authorities did by that time, he was rejected. His only chance to pursue higher education was to attend one of the faculties in the field of agriculture, where there were no "file" restrictions. That's how he became a student at the Faculty of Horticulture at the Agronomic Institute in Iaşi.

In the autumn of 1955, he became seriously ill during the agricultural practice and was hospitalized for a few months (October 1955 – February 1956). After healing, he dropped out the courses of the Horticulture Faculty and got hired as a substitute teacher at the Miorcani School.

The persecutions to which his family was subjected, due to the Bessarabia origin, implicitly affected him. Under these circumstances he changed his residence in another part of the country, where his origin could be unnoticed. He managed to become a substitute teacher of agriculture and biology at a school near Bucharest, where he worked for some years. According to the law at that time, he could attend a faculty on extramural courses only if he had a minimum of three years' seniority in the field in which he was employed. He initially graduated the Pedagogical Institute of three years (the Faculty of Biology and Agricultural Sciences), after which he followed the Faculty of Biology and Geography of the "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj. The bachelor degree exam dealt with the field of invertebrate zoology and was led by the harsh Professor Vasile Radu, Member of the Romanian Academy, who gave him the maximum mark (ten) with congratulations.

In 1978, he enrolled in his doctorate at his mentor, Professor Mihai Băcescu, and passed all his exams and preliminary papers, and later preparing his doctoral thesis in the domain of tanaidacean crustaceans. As it is well known, in Romania at that time, the PhD students, who were not members of the Communist Party, and Modest Guţu wasn't either, needed a special approval to hold the doctoral thesis, which he did not get. It was only after the events of December 1989 that he could resume the preparation of the PhD thesis, entitled *The morphological and systematic study of the current tanaidaceans (Crustacea) of the suborder Apseudomorpha*, which he finally held (1998) at "Babeş-Bolyai" University in Cluj, with Professor Nicolae Tomescu.

After passing so many adversities during his childhood and first youth, Modest GUŢU finally enters a "normal" rhythm of life and scientific creation.

# WHICH ARE THE OCTOGENARIAN'S, DR. MODEST GUTU'S LANDMARKS OF LIFE?

Dr. GUŢU is a biologist-zoologist, specialist in taxonomy, the main field of activity expanding on morphology, systematics, zoogeography and phylogeny of the tanaidacean crustaceans, as well as on the systematics of some peracarid crustaceans. But, equally, he can be considered a museologist. As a pupil of the school of the late Academician Mihai Băcescu, oceanographer, renowned carcinologist and director of the famous museum inherited from the great scholar Grigore Antipa, Modest GUŢU has the right to successfully practice the two specializations.

He worked at "Grigore Antipa" Museum since March 1, 1965 until March 31, 2002 when he retired on request, as senior researcher, highest grade; but now even if retired, he continues his activity, with or without an employment contract at his place of research.

#### DR. MODEST GUTU - AN ILLUSTRIOUS ZOOLOGIST

At 80 years of fruitful life dedicated to science, Dr. Modest GUŢU can be proud of his outstanding results whose importance goes beyond the borders of Romania, including the countries bordered by the world's seas and oceans. The investigated material after which many new taxa have been described originates in the Atlantic Ocean (the Gulf of Mexico, the Bermuda Islands, the Bahamian Archipelago, the coasts of Brazil, etc.), in various shallow water areas of the Indo-West Pacific (Tanzania, Réunion Island, Strait of Malacca, Andaman Sea, Pari and Bunaken Islands, Makassar Strait, Bali Island, Australia, etc.) as well as in the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Caribbean Sea, etc., some of these places visited by Dr. GUŢU during some expeditions. He collected the zoological material alone, with a small hand dredger, swimming underwater (in apnea or with scuba), or obtained them from collections of some museums or by the courtesy of his colleagues from abroad: Dr. Hans-Georg Müller (Germany), Dr. Richard Heard, South Mississippi University, Dr. Thomas Iliffe, A & M University at Galveston, Texas (U.S.A.), etc.

Within the "Grigore Antipa" National Natural History Museum, Modest GUŢU has performed numerous tasks specific to museum activity, like guiding, public conferences, educational activities, etc., all achieved successfully, with the imprint and personal charm of the dedicated museum worker. Particularly meritorious, however, was the engagement of Dr. GUŢU on the line of scientific research at the suggestion and under the guidance of Professor Mihai BĂCESCU. The way the Master showed, the knowledge of a small group of crustaceans, Tanaidacea, was a hard way, but it would bring full satisfaction to both the researcher and his mentor over the years.

From the group of crustaceans classified in the Order Tanaidacea, Modest GUŢU focussed, among other things, on Leptocheliidae, a family with many problems, characterized by enigmas and uncertainties. The brief diagnosis of the genus *Leptochelia* (due to the lack of knowledge of females of the type-species and the brief description of the males, plus the high sexual dimorphism as well as many other objective and subjective factors) generated numerous contradictions and confusions in the tanaidologists' world, confusion that has increased with the discovery of new species. This is why species with similar morphological macrostructures but with important different microstructures for the taxonomic classification of these tanaidaceans, ignored by scholars, have been classified in genus *Leptochelia*.

As a result of observations made on a large number of species (males and females), at first sight belonging to the genus *Leptochelia* (type-genus of the family Leptocheliidae), several common microstructures were found, characteristic to the males and females of several species "groups", thus allowing their reclassification into new genera, five of them being new to science (belonging to the subfamily Leptocheliinae). Certainly, Dr. Modest GUŢU successfully responds to the challenges raised by these crustaceans, but his contribution, although it does not solve all the contradictions and confusions in literature, is a major achievement in understanding the importance of micro-features, ignored up to now, for the systematics of the leptocheliids.

Based on personal research, the study of the specialized literature and on the discussions with specialists from abroad, the tanaidologist Modest GUŢU discovered and described 233 new taxa to science: 5 families, 9 subfamilies (a subfamily being erected to family rank), one tribe (erected to subfamily rank), 58 genera (some of them being synonymized or unaccepted), 4 subgenera (two erected to genus rank and one synonymized) and 156 species (of which one is synonymized). It is important to mention that out of the 233 described taxa, 227 are accepted by WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species), a species, a subgenus, and a few genera being synonymized or unaccepted.

Of the mentioned taxa, Dr. Guţu described as a single author 192 taxa (4 families, 9 subfamilies, one tribe, 48 genera, 3 subgenera and 127 species), 32 (one family, 7 genera and 24 species) in co-operation with researchers from the United States of America, Cuba, Colombia, Thailand and England, as senior author, and only 9 (3 genera, one subgenus and 5 species) as a second author (in collaboration with his mentor, Professor Mihai Băcescu).

Also, he contributed the most to the knowledge of the tanaidaceans of the suborder Apseudomorpha (the field he dedicated most of his activity), discovering and describing 181 new taxa to science (7 families, 10 subfamilies, 43 genera and 121 species) accepted by WoRMS, which represents more than a quarter of the 660 taxa (13 families, 16 subfamilies, 108 genera and about 523 species), as they are known today in the world fauna.

Apart from study on tanaidacean crustaceans of the world fauna, **Dr. GUŢU** also has systematic contributions at the level of the superorder Peracarida, describing two new orders to science (Bochusacea, in collaboration with

Dr. Thomas Iliffe, and Cosinzeneacea), as well as one genus and one species of the new order Bochusacea. The two described orders have generated numerous disputes, being admitted by some carcinologists and rejected by others. At present, the Order Bochusacea Guţu & Iliffe, 1998 was accepted by WoRMS, being mentioned in all recent zoology treaties. As a matter of fact, Dr. GUŢU is the only Romanian zoologist who has described an invertebrate order (Subphylum Crustacea) recognized by WoRMS and the international scientific community.

Discovering new species of tanaidaceans, Dr. Modest Guţu named them according to the international usage, guided by some features of the analyzed specimens (bicornis, cornicauda, longisetosus, minimus, multiarticulus, pigmaeus, ornata, tetracanthus, robustispinosus, rectifrons, etc.), by the origin/geographical area of the new species (antillensis, australianus, bahamensis, belizensis, brasiliensis, caribbeanus, caymanensis, cubensis, estafricana, estasiatica, indonesiana, javaensis, madagascariensis, martinicana, mexicanus, senegalensis, srilankensis, sudvestatlantica, surinamensis, tanzaniana, vestafricana, vestpacifica, etc.) or by the names of famous researchers; it is worth mentioning that Dr. GUŢU fulfills a moral and at the same time patriotic duty, naming the species in honor of many Romanian scholars (antipai – to Dr. Grigore Antipa, bacescui – to Dr. M. Băcescu, bogoescui – to Prof. C. Bogoescu, codreanui – to Prof. R. Codreanu, daicovicii – to Prof. C. Daicovici, eminescui – to poet Mihai Eminescu, negoescuae – to Dr. Ileana Negoescu, orghidani – to Dr. Traian Orghidan, tomescui – to Prof. N. Tomescu, vasileradui – to Prof. V. Radu, etc.).

We cannot end the presentation of Dr. GUŢU's contributions to the development of crustacean knowledge without mentioning the results of his researches in the field of biology and morphology of tanaidaceans: he discovered the autotomy in some tanaidaceans, explaining the causes of this phenomenon, and highlighted numerous unknown morphological structures which were the base of the description of some high taxa (genera, subfamilies, families).

All of these contributions are found in more than 600 citations, in more than 190 scientific papers and treatises, published in England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, U.S.A., Brazil, Cuba, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, etc.

## DR. MODEST GUŢU - OTHER CONCERNS, OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS; ALSO ABOUT CARCINOLOGY AND NOT ONLY...

In his memoir of work, Dr. GUŢU can proudly place other activities fulfilled along the time, wherever he was, besides his major concern as a carcinologist, especially in tanaidaceans:

- advisor for the *European Register of Marine Species* (Paris, 2001);
- drawing up scientific reports on the paper publication at the request of editors of highly prestigious journals (from England, France, the Netherlands, United States of America, Mexico, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, etc.);

- granting, directly or by correspondence, advice to colleagues from abroad (England, Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, the USA, Pakistan, Thailand, Australia, etc.) on morphology and systematics of tanaidaceans;
- holding a series of lectures at the *Systematics and Taxonomy of Crustacean workshop in the Order Tanaidacea*, organized by the Department of Aquatic Science, of the Faculty of Natural Resources (Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand);
- enriching the collections of the "Grigore Antipa" Museum with approximately 12,000 tanaidacean specimens (of more than 200 species of about 85 genera), of which 2,193 specimens are the type material (125 holotipes, 77 allotypes and 1,991 paratypes), registered in the national patrimony in the "treasure" category, which was the basis for describing new taxa for science;
- successfully fulfilling all the tasks that came to him as a museographer, from collection management to holding public conferences.

#### DR. MODEST GUTU'S SCIENTIFIC WORK

Dr. Modest GUŢU's entire work is reflected in his numerous and various publications (see list of published papers). Among the 156 papers, he has published more than 90 original scientific papers, of strict specialty of which about 80 on tanaidaceans of the world fauna, as single author or in collaboration with researchers from Romania, England, Germany, Cuba, Colombia, USA and Thailand.

Of all the papers published by Dr. Modest GUŢU, in particular we note two monographic papers already entered in many libraries of the world: *New Apseudomorph taxa (Crustacea, Tanaidacea) of the World Ocean*, Curtea Veche, 2006 (318 pp.) and *Systematic Novelties of the Enigmatic Universe of the Leptocheliids (Crustacea: Tanaidacea)*, ePublishers, Bucharest, 2016 (205 pp.).

Dr. GUŢU is also a co-author of treatises and catalogues of fauna published abroad: the *Catalogue of Crustacea of Brazil* (Rio de Janeiro, 1998) and the well-known *Traité de Zoologie*, founded by P.-P. Grassé, Vol. VII, Fasc. IIIA, the chapter Order Tanaidacea (Monaco, 1999), in which he is the senior author in collaboration with Jürgen Sieg (it has to be remarked that for the monumental treaty, from the Romanian specialists, also collaborated the late Academician Mihai Băcescu, who co-worked with Dr. Iorgu Petrescu, the chapter Order Cumacea). Dr. GUŢU was also the coordinator of the volume entitled *Results of the Zoological Expedition organized by the "Grigore Antipa" Museum in the Indonesia Archipelago (1991). I. Peracarida (Crustacea)*, published in 1997.

Alongside the original scientific works, Dr. Modest GUŢU's publication list also includes compilation scientific papers, many of them with original contributions (20), then numerous notes and papers of a museological and popularization character, reviews, as well as 6 outstanding booklets of science popularization for children,

3 books for the science dissemination for the general public (one translated into German), and a travel book.

# DR. MODEST GUŢU – TRAVELLER AROUND THE MERIDIANS OF THE WORLD

Among the factors that led to the achievement of remarkable results by Dr. GUŢU are the visits he made to museums, research and universities abroad, as well as his participation in expeditions and campaigns that allowed him collecting rich materials and samples, both for enriching the collections of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History and for detailed studies on crustaceans.

Dr. GUŢU visited and worked at the Institute of Oceanology of Havana, Cuba (1973), the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (1980, 1987), the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, of the University of Southern Mississippi, USA (1999), A & M University at Galveston, Texas, USA (1999), the Department of Aquatic Science, of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand (2004).

Dr. GUŢU participated in two campaigns in the Caribbean Sea organized by the Institute of Oceanology of Havana, in the Indonesia Archipelago and Brazil, both organized by the "Grigore Antipa" Museum, the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, organized by the Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai (Thailand).

#### DR. MODEST GUŢU - RECOGNITION AND HONORS

Dr. Modest GUŢU, member of remarkable scientific societies such as The Crustacean Society, S.U.A. and the International Commission for the Exploration of the Mediterranean, Monaco, is appreciated and respected by the scientific world, and received many honors and recognitions.

In the first place there are the taxa dedicated to his honor: one genus and 11 species are named after him by scientists from Australia, England, Cuba, Japan, Russia, USA, Thailand and Romania (see the list).

At the suggestion of the renowned oceanographer and explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau, director of the Monaco Oceanographic Museum at that time, the Academy of Sciences in Paris awarded Dr. Modest GUŢU the "Jules et Mathilde Richard" Award, in 1986, for the discovery in the collections of that museum of some tanaidacean crustaceans of great scientific value, which formed the basis of the description of several new species that were believed to be lost.

In Romania, Dr. GUŢU received the first prize and the "Little Reader's Trophy", in 1977, for the book entitled "Skilled Masters of Animal World" and, in 1982, the same 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the book "What We Know about Extraterrestrial Life".

Praising Dr. Modest GUŢU for his 80 years of life, highlighting the accomplishments, the places and the people he met in over half a century, not a career but a vocation, I cannot pass his mentor, the late Academician Mihai Băcescu, who, from the very beginning, discovered the qualities of the young museographer and researcher, the one who felt his skills, gave him close guidance and all the confidence, so as he did with many students of his school, like the forefathers who sent him the sacred fire of knowledge.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Modest GUŢU! Happy Birthday, health and achievements!

Marian-Traian GOMOIU

Member of the Romanian Academy

# TANAIDACEAN GENERA AND SPECIES AND OTHER PERACARID CRUSTACEANS NAMED IN THE HONOUR OF DR. MODEST GUŢU BY SCHOLARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AUSTRALIA, CUBA, ENGLAND, JAPAN, THAILAND, RUSSIA AND ROMANIA

#### Genera:

1. Gutuapseudes Edgar, 1997 (Tanaidacea).

#### **Species:**

- 1. Cubanocuma gutzui Băcescu & Muradian, 1977 (Cumacea);
- 2. Sphyrapus gutui Kudinova-Pasternak, 1985 (Tanaidacea);
- 3. Bowmaniella gutzui Ortiz, 1988 (Mysidacea);
- 4. Javanisomysis gutzui Băcescu, 1992 (Mysidacea);
- 5. Katocalliope gutui Ortiz & Lalana, 1997 (Amphipoda);
- 6. Indonesanthura gutui Negoescu, 1997 (Isopoda);
- 7. Tanapseudes gutui Hansknecht, Heard & Bamber, 2001 (Tanaidacea);
- 8. Leptostylis gutzui Petrescu, 2005 (Cumacea);
- 9. Julmarichardia gutui Ritger & Heard, 2007 (Tanaidacea);
- 10. Kalliapseudes gutui Drumm & Heard, 2011 (Tanaidacea);
- 11. Halmyrapseudes gutui Kakui & Angsupanich, 2013 (Tanaidacea).

# PAPERS PUBLISHED BY DR. MODEST GUȚU (ALONE AND IN COLLABORATION)

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- 8. BĂCESCU, M. & M. GUŢU, 1975 A new genus (*Discapseudes* n.g.) and three new species of Apseudidae (Crustacea, Tanaidacea) from the Northeastern Coast of South America. Zoologische Mededelingen, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, 49 (11): 95–113.
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- 12. MANOLELI, D. & M. GUŢU, 1977 Le lac Belona (Eforie Nord Mer Noire) l'eutrophisation et l'evolution générale des structures hydrobiologiques. Rapp. Comm. Mer Médit., 24 (6): 101–102 (in French).
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