

ZOOLOGIST DUMITRU MURARIU – CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY – 80 YEARS
OF LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF RESEARCH FAUNA
AND NATURE PROTECTION

MARIAN-TRAIAN GOMOIU*, SANDA MAICAN**



The paper is meant to be Laudatio on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Dr. Dumitru Murariu, a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, an outstanding personality in the field of Romanian biological sciences and an important specialist of the Romanian school of Zoology, highly appreciated for his papers on mammalogy, nature conservation and museology.

PREAMBLE

First of all, we address to our distinguished colleague Dumitru Murariu, on behalf of the members of the Editorial Board of the *Romanian Journal of Biology-Zoology*, our greetings and our sincere wishes for Happy Birthday!, together with the thoughts of high appreciation and valuing on his 80th birthday of life, full of scientific achievements in Romanian biology, on the path drawn by the great forerunners, Dr. Grigore Antipa, Dr. Mihai Băcescu and others.

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Dr. Dumitru Murariu – corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, a first-rate scientific figure in zoology, has distinguished himself in recent decades in the biological sciences in Romania by conducting sustained research on mammals in our country, and not only, with results appreciated by both specialists and many nature lovers in Romania, as well as by zoologists of the international scientific community.

Over the time we were following and noticed the scientific activity carried out by Dr. Dumitru Murariu at the helm and in the service of the foundation of the great scientist and patriot Grigore Antipa – the National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest – a museum he took over from great scholars, developed in full concordance with the way things are going in the civilized world of the new millennium in which we are living. For 45 years, Dr. Dumitru Murariu served the institution with devotion, proving abundantly that he knew how to preserve and increase the legacy of culture left to the Romanian people by Dr. Grigore Antipa, skillfully coping with unfavorable circumstances, diversifying activities, surrounding by passionate young people and thus preparing for the future. Today, the museum is not only a cultural institution with a major role in the education of the people, an informal school, a support of formal education, but also a center of research and scientific training, with results in dozens of publications – books and original works, appreciated unanimously both by the general public and by specialists. Today, the “Grigore Antipa” Museum is also a forum for exchanging information with the country and the world.

DUMITRU MURARIU – THE MAN. BIOGRAPHICAL FORAYS

Dumitru Murariu was born on September 21, 1940, in Ungureni (Epureni village) in the Jijia basin, a commune with gentle hills in Botoşani County, which today includes 12 villages. From these lands of Botoşani full of history, several personalities of Romanian science and culture went to “raise the country”, and we mention here Mihai Eminescu, George Enescu, Nicolae Iorga, Grigore Antipa, Ştefan Luchian, Dimitrie Pompeiu.

Dumitru saw the light of day in the hard times of the Second World War and spent his childhood under the unfortunate influence of the consequences of this war for our country. Romania was going through a difficult period at that time, marked by poverty, shortages and constraints. His father, Toader Murariu, and his mother, Elena, worked in the fields. Most of the family's resources were directed to ensuring the daily living of the five children. But parents valued their children's education and wanted them to “have education”. Especially his mother, a peasant with only seven grades, but worthy and dignified, orphaned by her father in the interwar period, knew well how difficult it is to go through all the trials of life without school. She often took part in her son, Dumitru, in front of his father, who

wanted the boy at home, to help with the field work and household chores. At the insistence of the mother and to fulfill her wish, all five children in the family took the path of learning (Dumitru, Lucia – become a teacher, Mircea – telecommunications engineer, Maricela – garment worker and Dorica – doctoral engineer in animal husbandry). Dumitru attended primary and secondary schools in the villages of his native commune – Epureni, Ungureni and Plopenii Mari.

The young Dumitru then left Ungureni village for Botoșani city, to attend the courses of the famous high school named after the great Transylvanian politician, historian and linguist August Treboniu Laurian (participant in the 1848 revolution) – one of the oldest and most famous schools in the region, in whose benches were, as students, those who became representative figures of the Romanian culture – Nicolae Iorga, Octav Onicescu, Simion Sanielevici, Ion Th. Simionescu, Constantin Gane, Barbu Lăzăreanu, Victor Tufescu, Alexandru Graur and others.

During the holidays, Dumitru returned to his native village, where, according to his own confessions, “*he helped his parents in the fields, grazed cattle*”, but “*he also read a lot*”, this being the period when, among the books in the Communal Library, he discovered the classics of universal literature.

From gymnasium he remembers with gratitude the history teacher, Constantin Miclea, about whom he says: “*We were captivated by the supplement to the lesson in the book. And he gave us practical advice: to aim to do something every day*”.

From high school, the memory of the matchless professor of biology – Remus Chekhovschi – settled in Botoșani, after he had been an assistant at the University of Chernovitsi, remained alive. In addition to the practical activities in the school group, the teacher explained to the students, “live” the diagram of Cruciferae flowers compared to Rosaceae flowers or how to orient in walking through the city and neighboring forests, by knowing the bark of plane trees, oak, elm, hornbeam etc.; in class he strived for his students not to limit themselves only to memorizing lessons, but to learn to make generalizations, starting from knowledge of anatomy and physiology or from natural selection and individual variability (in the classes of the Basics of Darwinism), to the evolution of life and beings throughout the geological eras.

After obtaining the Baccalaureate Diploma, he satisfied his military service, which was compulsory in Romania at that time, and after completing his military service (1958–1961), Dumitru Murariu was appointed, for a short period, substitute teacher at the school in Epureni village.

Between 1961–1966 he attended the courses of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Faculty of Biology-Geography – Zoology Department. The students from Iași, botanists and zoologists, considered themselves privileged, because by graduating the two sections, their distribution in institutes, resorts and scientific research centers was expected. Like the Universities of Bucharest and Cluj, the University of Iași managed two resorts: the “Ion Borcea” Zoological Resort from Agigea and the “Stejarul” Resort from Pângărați, Neamț County, with teams of specialists, whom the students met on the occasion of summer practices.

Dumitru Murariu kept forever the conferences from the summer practices, on general topics of biology, geography, geology, presented by teachers from Iași, Cluj, Bucharest Universities. In Agigea he first listened to Academician Mihai Băcescu, talking about the biocenoses of the Black Sea. He listened to Academician Eugen Pora talking about his experience during the expedition with the ship “Brave” (Vitiáz) in the Indian Ocean, Professor Sergiu Cărașu – about the adaptations of *Artemia salina* and its role in producing sapropelic mud from the waters of Lake Techirghiol and others.

From the Faculty, Professor Mihai Ion Constantineanu will never forget the invertebrate zoology courses, explaining how jellyfish are propelled in their environment, mentioning his internship in Banyuls-sur-Mer, where he made observations on these curious invertebrates, which floated among the silhouettes of those who swam in the waters of the Mediterranean, along the Cote d’Azur. The courses of paleontology with elements of geology, held by Professor Nicolae Macarovici, those of comparative anatomy, paleoanthropology and contemporary anthropology – of Academician Olga Necrasova, those of animal physiology and superior nervous activity given by Academician Petre Jitaru and Professor Eliza Alexe fascinated him and conquered the student Dumitru Murariu.

His graduation paper (June 1966) entitled *General, systematic, dissemination and some working models of the representatives of the suborders Ensifera from Moldova*, coordinated by Professor Filimon Cârdei, had 132 pages, 100 drawings, 19 maps and 13 photos.

After finishing his studies, the separation from the cultural, stimulating and select atmosphere of the Iași University environment made him live a deep regret. In the same year (1966), he married Angela (Vasilii) Murariu, and today, after 54 years of marriage, the Dumitru and Angela Murariu family enjoy their son, Mihail – Dr. Eng. Chemist and daughter, Magdalena – dentist, with two nieces from the boy and another one from the daughter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC CAREER

After graduating from University, during 1966–1969, Dumitru Murariu worked as a biologist-bacteriologist and hematologist in the laboratory of the Unified TB Hospital “Pantelimon” in Bucharest. Here, in collaboration with specialists from the Institute “Dr. Ion Cantacuzino”, participated in the elaboration of the study *Experimental infestations with the Koch bacillus in different species of small mammals*, which involved bacteriological research, followed by histological research on the skin glands. Probably this was the decisive moment that aroused his interest and desire to dedicate himself to scientific research and especially to the study of mammals.

In 1969 Dumitru Murariu started his activity as a museologist at the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest. Because his subject of graduating from university courses was the study of Orthoptera in Moldova, he wanted to continue his work as an entomologist at the Museum. But, as at that time only one position was available in the Museum – mammals, the Director of the Museum – Academician Mihai C. Băcescu, noting him among the few students who were curious to listen to one of his lectures held at the Summer School at Agigea and knowing his experience in microscopy, acquired in the laboratory of the “Pantelimon” Hospital, he urged him to start researching mammals, suggesting that he study the skin glands of insectivorous mammals.

To carry out this activity, Dumitru Murariu organized in the Museum a laboratory of histology and histochemistry, endowing it with all the necessary equipment and materials, this being the first laboratory of this kind organized in a museum of natural sciences in the country. The studies undertaken by Dumitru Murariu on some mammal species from Romania and Europe led to the identification of 10 different types of specialized skin glands, placed in different areas of the body. Over the years, Dumitru Murariu together with Dr. Luis Ovidiu Popa, laid the foundations of a new laboratory, the Molecular Genetics, thus initiating a new research direction in the Museum and supporting the young team of researchers within it. This department was originally intended for molecular taxonomy studies, with the role of establishing the postglacial spread of some vertebrates. Currently, the Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum is developing themes of isolation and characterization of microsatellite markers and molecular insights of different protected mussels, insects, as well as of practical DNA analysis of some game species.

On July 11, 1975, Dumitru Murariu publicly defended his doctoral thesis entitled *The skin glands of insectivores (Mammalia) in Romania. Anatomy, histology and histochemistry*, developed under the coordination of Emeritus Professor Gheorghe Th. Dornescu, from the Department of Comparative Animal Morphology of the Faculty of Biology – University of Bucharest.

At the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, Dumitru Murariu capitalized on his passion for scientific research, going through, for 45 years, all the stages of affirmation, from museum guide, museographer, researcher, head of section and senior scientific researcher (1st degree), until the General Manager (since 1988). In this venerable and prestigious institution, Dr. Murariu was directly involved in specific museum activities, such as the organization of permanent and temporary exhibitions, two of which (from 2001 and 2002), being awarded with “Mihai Băcescu” Prize, by the Ministry of Culture, and two others (from 2003 and 2004), with the “Grigore Antipa” Prize for the organization and evidence of scientific collections or Museum’s natural heritage. As a mammalogist, he was firstly implied in organizing mammal collections as well as of other vertebrates, which involved activities to identify/verify the taxonomic

classification of the biological materials, labeling, cataloging and inventory, in order to be included in certain categories of mobile heritage, according to the Romanian legislation.

In parallel with the museology activities and those dedicated to the study of mammals, Dr. Dumitru Murariu's preoccupations were directed towards the initiation and development within the Museum of educational, cultural and popularization projects of biological sciences among nature lovers, at all levels, training and education. During his career, Dumitru Murariu had a continuous and active involvement in the coordination and professional development of the young team of zoologists at the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History, which is currently one of the most representative in our country.

VISITS TO AMERICA AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Thanks to obtaining a 12-months Fulbright scholarship in the USA (16.09.1975–16.09.1976), Dr. Dumitru Murariu specialized in issues of systematics, morphology and ecology of mammals, collaborating and getting in touch with famous American mammalogists: Robert S. Hoffman, Sydney Anderson – former presidents of the American Society of Mammalogists; James W. Bee – Head of Morphology Chair at Kansas State University; Henry W. Setzer Head of Mammal Division in Smithsonian Institute – National M.N.H. in Washington, D.C.; Duane Schliter – Head of Mammal Division in Natural History Museum from Pittsburgh – Pennsylvania.

During his time in the United States, he was initiated and perfected in animal preparation techniques exhibited in museums of natural sciences, participating in a series of training courses in 12 institutions of high scientific prestige: the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC), Pittsburgh Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History in New York, Chicago Field Museum of Natural History-Illinois. He spent most of his internship at the Kansas State University-Museum of Natural History in Lawrence. Here, together with two American researchers (Robert S. Hoffman and James W. Bee), he published a study on the histology and histo-chemistry of the specialized integumentary glands of eight North American shrew species. Dr. Murariu also completed internships in the collections of museums and research institutes in Europe, namely: the Mammal Collections of the Institute and Museum of Zoology in Sankt Petersburg; collections of the Museum of Zoology (Lomonosov University, Moscow); laboratories of the "A.N. Severtsov" Institute of Ecology and Evolution from in Moskow. He had been internships at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin – "Humboldt" University, in the Museum of Natural History from Helsinki, the Institute of Systematics and Animal Evolution of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow, in the specialized museums from Madrid, Vienna, Budapest,

Sofia, etc. Upon returning to the country, the knowledge acquired in the USA and in other countries facilitated the deepening of useful work techniques in carrying out specific activities at the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, respectively, exhibitions, evidence of scientific collections, organization of research in laboratories in Bucharest’s museum, preparation, conservation and restoration of items from collections, etc. The overseas training course was also useful for him to understand and apply, later in the country, the management principles, specific to scientific and cultural institutions in the field of natural sciences.

MUSEUM’S MANAGER – MUSEOGRAPHER – ZOOLOGIST – SCIENTIFIC WORK

In 1976 Dumitru Murariu obtained the position of Head of the Department of Vertebrates and Restoration within the “Grigore Antipa” Museum. From this position he exercised his skills and qualities as a good organizer and manager, coordinating mixed teams, consisting of researchers specializing in the study of vertebrates and specialists in restoration, conservation and taxidermy. In 1988, Academician Mihai Băcescu – an eminent zoologist and internationally recognized oceanologist, entrusted Dr. Dumitru Murariu with the management of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, a position he held until 2014. Over time, Dr. Murariu has carried out an intense museological activity by publishing museology articles and by active participation in the conferences of the International Organization of Museums (ICOM), of the Association of Naturalist Museologists in Romania, in the scientific sessions of museums in the country, conferences to popularize the biological sciences – organized by various institutions, gave more than 100 interviews in the written media, on radio and television.

Part of his scientific knowledge and experience, accumulated in laboratories and expeditions, entered the lectures of the course *Biodiversity conservation and notions of ecology*, taught to students of the Technical and Construction University – Bucharest, between 1992–1994. Starting with 2009, at the “Grigore Antipa” Museum, under the leadership of Dr. Dumitru Murariu, the project entitled “*Grigore Antipa*” *Museum reinvented at the age of 100*, financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, started. At the end of this project, in 2011, this institution became a strong cultural, scientific and educational center in which visitors have at their disposal a permanent exhibition, organized on the basis of the most modern museum and audio-visual means. The professional achievements enjoyed by Dr. Dumitru Murariu in the biological scientific community in the country and abroad, recommended him for election as a *corresponding Member* of the Romanian Academy, in 2006. In 2013 he was awarded the Diploma *Academic Merit* of the Academy of Sciences from the Republic of Moldova, and in 2014 he was elected as a *Foreign Member* of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Arts in Krakow, Poland.

Of the over 350 articles, reviews and scientific papers published by Dr. Murariu, most are dedicated to mammals, and the others deal with topics of museology, history of Romanian and universal biological sciences, articles popularizing and disseminating natural sciences among the general public. His passion for the study of mammals and the experience gained in over 50 years of systematic, morphological, ecological, ethological and zoogeographical research within this group, can be found in the pages of over 20 published books, among which we mention:

- *From the world of mammals* – in six volumes published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House, about terrestrial, arboreal, gallery, flying, aquatic mammals (marine and freshwater);
- *Atlas of Mammals of Europe* (London, 1999, national coordinator);
- *Chiroptera from Romania* (co-author, 2003);
- *The Red Book of Vertebrates from Romania* (co-author, 2005);
- *Bibliographia Mammalogica Romaniaiae* (a synthesis that includes 4,500 titles of works and notes about mammals from the Romanian fauna; first author, 2008);
- *The First Ecological Reconstruction of Underground Environment from Romania. Cioclovina Dry Cave* (co-author, 2009);
- *Antarctic pinnipeds. Recherches d'Émille Racovitza* (2016), 521 pages, printed by Éditions Universitaires Européenes. Omni Scriptum GmbH / Co. KG, Saarbrücken, Deutschland.

Through the results of his research on the inventory, ecology, ethology, distribution and conservation of mammal species in almost all countries (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romanian Plain, Banat, Rodna Mountains, Bucegi Mountains, Vrancea Mountains, Teleajen Valley, Argeş Hills, Maramureş, Moldova, Olt Valley, Jiu Valley, Cerna Valley, etc.), Dumitru Murariu has contributed substantially to the development of mammalogy in Romania.

The diversity of concerns Dr. Murariu, well illustrated by the diversity of thematic areas (Table 1) led to the diversity of collaborations with colleagues from the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History specialists in various groups of bodies and fields, with which over time formed a team in the field and who became co-authors in the published works. A survey based on the analysis of a selective list of 184 of Dr. D. Murariu's works shows that in more than half of his scientific production he signs as the sole author, in 70.65% of the works he is the first author; he is co-author of almost 30% of the works with 2–3 authors and some with several authors.

The valuable scientific contribution is of great thematic and geographical diversity, thanks to his interest in a wide range of vertebrates (mammals, birds, fish), but also in some invertebrates. Equally, we found that Dr. Murariu has constantly strived to follow, as a duty of honor, the path traced by his predecessors to lead the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History – both by developing and diversifying the themes of exhibitions for the public and scientific research programs.

Table 1

The thematic areas of the scientific preoccupations of Dr. Dumitru Murariu
(according to the *Selective References* inserted at the end of this note)

The species mentioned in the paper's title:	
Mammifera	Biogeography – Studied areas:
Aves - Pisces – Mollusca – Insecta	
Insectivora:	Life of Mammals – general books:
2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 25, 27, 28, 60, 65, 79, 86, 89, 96, 174	61, 78, 82, 128, 147, 153, 156, 170
Rodentia:	Key books, nomenclature, names, lists of species:
5, 14, 15, 25, 44, 54, 79, 88, 95, 174	43, 86, 87, 88, 93, 97, 99, 123, 151, 162
Species:	Reviews:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Apodemus agrarius</i> – 30, 52 • <i>Apodemus flavicollis</i> - 160 • <i>Cricetus cricetus</i> - 133 • <i>Crocidura leucodon</i> - 3, 4 • <i>Crocidura zaodon</i> – 65 • <i>Crocidura</i> sp. - 89 • <i>Dama dama</i> – 117 • <i>Eliomys quercinus</i> - 47 • <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> - 3, 9 • <i>Lutra lutra</i> - 175 • <i>Meles meles</i> - 98 • <i>Mesocricetus newtoni</i> - 138 • <i>Micromys minutus</i> - 46 • <i>Microtus agrestis bailloni</i> - 15 • <i>Microtus arvalis</i> - 54 • <i>Microtus epiroticus</i> - 42, 45, 53 • <i>Myocastor coypus</i> - 95 • <i>Mus musculus spicilegus</i> - 30 • <i>Mustela lutreola</i> - 84 • <i>Nannospalax leucodon</i> - 159 • <i>Neomys fodiens</i> - 3, 4 • <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> - 126 • <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> - 101 • <i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i> - 142 • <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> - 149 • <i>Sorex araneus</i> - 2, 4 • <i>Sorex alpinus</i> - 96 • <i>Spalax isticus</i> - 44 • <i>Talpa europaea</i> - 2, 9 • <i>Vespertilio murinus</i> - 120 	23, 40, 58, 67, 68, 69 „Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology: 168, 178 (Centipede collection) „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (MINGA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide book, Collection Guide - 33, 50, 57, 73, 76 • Indonezian Expedition – 70, 71, 72 • MINGA activities, events - 10, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 32, 38, 62, 63, 124, 158
	Romanian Plain:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General - 26 • NE sector - 11 • NW sector - 55 • South sector, Comana forest – 98 • Siret-Danube-Ialomița Rivers - 11, 59 • Olt River - 28, 35 • Black Sea – 155, 176 • Danube River – 95 • Razelm Lake – 29, 148 • Ostrovul Mare (Mehedinți) – 49, 56 • Bucharest, Metropolitan Area - 131
	Districts:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argeș - 14, 25 • Buzău - 14 • Cheia (Prahova) - 5 • Dobrudja – 100, 138, 139, 177 • Dobrudja (Romania and Bulgaria) – 125, 126, 145, 152 • Ilfov - 16 • Moldova, Iași, Bacău - 79, 83, 90 • Teleorman - 16 • Vrancea - 12, 14, 175
Chiroptera – general:	Nature Conservation/Recovery:
106, 109, 116, 122, 132, 135, 151, 161, 172	116, 127, 139, 146, 161

Table 1 (continued)

Pisces:	Protected areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Percocottus glenii</i> - 102 • <i>Ameiurus melas</i> - 102 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danube Delta - 29, 30, 80, 87, 105, 108, 180 • Măcin Mountains National Park - 127 • Piatra Craiului National Park – 92, 111, 166 • Putna – Vrancea Natural Park - 175
Aves:	Mountains:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Asio otus otus</i> – 37, 64, 85, 90 • <i>Athene noctua</i> - 83, 174 • <i>Buteo buteo</i> - 177 • <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> - 180 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpathians - 96, 122, 135 • Cindrel - 140 (birds and mammals) • Măcin - 127 • Zarand - 136 (birds and mammals)
Mollusca:	Caves:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sinanodonta woodiana</i> – 115, 154 • <i>Hypanis colorata</i> – 150 • <i>Hypanis</i> sp. - 155 • Linnocardiidae – 137, 148 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cioclovina Uscată (Hunedoara) - 146 • Şura Mare (Grădiştea Muncelului-Cioclovina Natural Park, Hunedoara) – 149 • „La Adam” (Târgușor–Dobrogea) – 133 • Muierii (Baia de Fier) – 132 • Gura Ponicevei - 94
Orthoptera; general entomology:	Outside Romania:
131, 184	
Histology and histochemistry of specialized glands of mammals; DNA extraction; banding pattern in the genom of species; molecular - nuclear microsatellite markers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica (Pinnipedia) - 170 • Bulgaria - see Dobrudja • Indonezia - 70, 71, 72 • North America - 27 • Tunisia („Punia” expedition) - 110
2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 27, 45, 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, 54, 60, 65, 114, 117, 150, 154, 155, 159	
Trophology:	Personalities from Biology – biographical data, doings :
37, 64, 83, 85, 90, 98, 175	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grigore ANTIPA - 74, 103, 169, 171 • Mihai BĂCESCU - 18, 19, 20 • Nicolae BOTNARIUC - 164 • Gheorghe T. DORNESCU - 34 • Constantin MOTAŞ - 104 • Emil RACOVIŢĂ - 182 • Gheorghe RACOVIŢĂ – 173 • Ion TODERAŞ - 181 • Dimitrie VOINOV - 75 • Mihai I. CONSTANTINEANU- 81 • Carl von LINNAEUS - 112, 113 • Georges-Louis Leclerc, COMTE DE BUFFON – 119 • 150 years since the publication of „Origin of Species” - 134, 143
Osteology:	
41, 133	
Ecology:	
36, 55, 56, 91, 94, 100, 101, 120, 127, 163, 167	

As a doctoral supervisor (since 2000) at the Doctoral School of Biology – University of Bucharest, Dr. Dumitru Murariu has created a real team in the field of zoology-theriology in our country, being the scientific coordinator of many young doctoral students he was guiding closely, giving them all the confidence and

support in the elaboration of doctoral theses. So far, he has coordinated the activity of a number of over 30 PhD students, of which over 20 have publicly defended their thesis and received confirmation of the title of Doctor of Biology.

Dumitru Murariu, a field man and good teammate, with a practical and organizational spirit, organized and led two scientific expeditions of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of N.H., abroad: in Indonesia (January – June, 1991) and in Brazil (April – July, 1994). As an expert in the group of mammals, he participated in the expeditions organized by the “Oceanic Club” Society from Constanța in collaboration with the “Grigore Antipa” Museum, in Tunisia, Morocco (three expeditions) and in Turkey, collecting valuable biological material and in this way, enriching the Museum's collections.

Throughout his career, Dumitru Murariu has distinguished himself not only by his scientific activity, but also by his organizational and managerial qualities, demonstrated especially in the 25 years he was in charge as general manager of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History. During 2015–2016, Dr. Dumitru Murariu was appointed and fulfilled the position of full-time Deputy Director of the Institute of Speleology “Emil Racoviță” of the Romanian Academy, and since July 2016 he is Director of the Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy, where he is still operating today.

As Director of this impressive institute, Dumitru Murariu strived to continue the good practices of his predecessors, to ensure the fulfillment of basic functions, aiming at their own research plans specific to each research department, by encouraging performance, promotions, supporting mobility in order to professional development, attracting master students and enrolling young PhD employees, developing collaborations with academic institutions in the country and abroad – all in order to bring closer the performance and standards of the Institute of Biology, the competitive level of EU institutes. Within the Institute of Biology, Dr. Dumitru Murariu carries out his activity with tenacity and passion for zoology, with a devotion recognized by colleagues, collaborators, by all those who cross his threshold. Everywhere he worked, on leaving he left room for “good morning”, consulting with senior colleagues, helping young people, both with advice and personal example. He is a good colleague in all circumstances, without losing his authority. In the 80 years of life he celebrates this year, Dr. Dumitru Murariu has gathered 50 years of systematic, morphological, ecological, zoogeographical and ethological research in the group of mammals. His experience and professional practice are presented in 20 books about mammals in Romania and around the world. Within the *Romanian Fauna Collection*, the “treasure” Collection of the Romanian Academy, Dr. Dumitru Murariu has developed and continues to carry out a sustained activity, highlighted by the publication of six volumes related to the Mammalia Class: Insectivora (2000; 2014 – English version); Rodentia (2001); Lagomorpha, Cetacea, Artiodactyla; Order Perissodactyla (no current species) (2004); Carnivora (2005); Chiroptera (2016 – English version).

AWARDS AND HONORS

In recognition of the valuable scientific activity in the field of mammalian research and for his contribution to the development of biological sciences in Romania, for the results of scientific research and management of natural sciences heritage, Dr. Dumitru Murariu was awarded a series of awards and distinctions:

- „Mihai Băcescu” Award granted by the Ministry of Culture and Cults (2001 and 2002);
- “Grigore Antipa” Award granted by the Ministry of Culture and Cults (2003 and 2004);
- Order “Cultural Merit in the rank of Officer” (2004);
- “Emil Racoviță” Award (Romanian Academy, 2018);
- Diploma “Academic Merit” (Romanian Academy, 2018).

Dr. Murariu is a member of a number of national and international scientific organizations and associations, among which we mention:

- American Mammal Association;
- European Mammal Society;
- Advisory Committee of the European Convention EUROBATS;
- Association of Naturalist Museographers in Romania;
- European Environment Agency – National Centre of Reference;
- IUCN (International Commission for Nature Conservation);
- Romanian Federation of Chiropterology – president;
- National Geographic Society;
- International Council of Museums (ICOM);
- Expert zoologist, certificated by the Ministry of Culture and National Identity;
- Group of scientists – Mammalia for *Fauna Europaea*.

Concerns related to the history of Romanian and universal biological sciences, determined in 2010 the election of Dr. Murariu as first vice-president of the *Romanian Committee of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology* (CRIFST) of the Romanian Academy. This Committee promotes the development of research in the field of history and philosophy of science, in the field of technical history, facilitating the connection between scientists in Romania and abroad. As the first vice-president of CRIFST, Dumitru Murariu is continuously concerned with the regular organization and conduct of working meetings and events organized under the auspices of CRIFST (symposia, scientific communication sessions), the permanent improvement of the quality of articles published in CRIFST journals as well as by recruiting new members. The articles in the journals affiliated to this Committee bearing his signature speak of „People and Facts”,

present aspects of the life and work of personalities in the field of natural sciences, topics in the broad field of biology, such as the origin and evolution of the living world, theories regarding species term and speciation, current biodiversity issues, etc.

Dr. Dumitru Murariu is part of the Editorial Committees of several scientific journals, among which we mention: *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa"* (Editor-in-Chief during 1989–2014), *Romanian Journal of Biology-Zoology*, Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief), *Studies and Communications – CRIFST* (Director), *Noema – CRIFST*, Academic Series *Romanian Fauna*, *Oltenia Journal for Studies in Natural Sciences*, *Scientific Annals of the Danube Delta Institute*, *Bulletin of Institute of Zoology* (Academy of Sciences, Moldova Republic), *Studia Chiropterologica* (Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals – Polish Academy of Sciences).

Dumitru Murariu is a member of the *Commission for the Protection of Natural Monuments* (CMN) and President of the *National Commission for Antarctic Research* (CNCA), which operates within the Romanian Academy. Established in 2012, CNCA includes several scientists involved in continuing and supporting research efforts in the Antarctic area, initiated by Romanian scientist Emil Racoviță, as well as in developing the National Antarctic Research Program.

This anniversary year, under the coordination of Dr. Dumitru Murariu and on his desk, there is an important and necessary project for Romanian Zoology, the realization of the first edition of the *Red Book of Invertebrates from Romania*, a work that had to be done years ago. Numerous specialists in different groups of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates in Romania are involved in this approach, started in 2016 and which will be completed by the end of this year.

The personality and work of Dr. Dumitru Murariu is an example of tenacity, hard working and love for science. He is a worthy successor of those before him, the illustrious forerunners Grigore Antipa, Mihai Băcescu, Petru-Mihai Bănărescu, personalities who wrote the history of Romanian biology over time. At the same time, he is a mentor appreciated and respected by his younger collaborators, whom he encourages and supports unconditionally.

Calm and patient, Dumitru Murariu always has the „door open”, understanding, answering, given an advice or a good word for those who cross his threshold, colleagues, collaborators, young people at the beginning of their way in biology. All of them are respecting and appreciate him not only as a valuable scientist, but also as a *Man*, a trusted counselor and helper.

During the over 50 years of scientific activity, Dr. Dumitru Murariu has served with devotion and high competence Zoology in Romania. “Tireless”, as we know him, and he has proved it over time, we are convinced that he will continue to contribute to the deciphering of the mysteries of the living, for the benefit of science and of the biological community in our country.

The signatories of these lines were trying to capture the personality and the most relevant contributions of Dr. Dumitru Murariu to the development of biological sciences in Romania, but, certainly, much more could have been said...

But we will end here, with the wish *Many years before, dear colleague, good health, hard work and fruitful activity!*

Note: The information regarding the life and work of Dr. Dumitru Murariu were taken from his CV and public sources.

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**Romanian Academy,*
Calea Victoriei 125, 010071, Bucharest, Romania
 e-mail: mtgomoiu@gmail.com

***Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy,*
296 Splaiul Independenței, 060031, Bucharest,
PO-Box 56–53, Romania
 e-mail: sanda.maican@ibiol.ro

