

sfârșitul lunii cu nume argezean, în data de 28, 96 de ani de la nașterea Acad. Mihai C. Băcescu. Ei sunt doi din acei „uriași“ pe care se sprijină tot pământul României, cei care, cu

prisosință, binemerită de la națiunea lor pe care au servit-o până la sacrificiu.

Iorgu PETRESCU

IN MEMORIAM MIHAI C. BĂCESCU (1908-1999)
ABSTRACT

This summer, on August 6th, we'll commemorate five years since Academician Mihai C. Băcescu passed away at the age of 91. He was born on March 28th 1908 in Broșteni (Suceava County).

He graduated the Faculty of Biology from Iassy in 1933. His doctoral thesis „Mysids from Romanian waters, taxonomic, morphologic, biogeographic and biologic study” (marine studies were mainly realised in Agigea, Prof. Ioan Borcea, founder of that marine research station, was his most important professor) was sustained in 1938 in the same faculty. In the same year he had the opportunity to make his first study of mysids far from the Black Sea, in the Mediterranean, during a fellowship in Monaco.

Highly appreciated by Dr. Grigore Antipa, Mihai Băcescu was invited to work in the Natural History Museum from Bucharest in 1940.

Since that time, Mihai Băcescu destiny was intimately binded with this institution up to the end of his life. He was the director of this museum between 1964 and 1988.

His name is connected with more than half of century of Romanian museology, as highly distinguished man of science (together with Grigore Antipa and Emil Racoviță being the most important Romanian zoologist), founder of Romanian school of carcinology in Bucharest and of modern oceanology in Constanța, both of them world-wide appreciated, also as director of main Romanian museum of natural history, founder of „Waters Museum” from Fălticeni (who bears his name since 1993) and

the only Romanian Honoric Member of ICOM.

Member of numerous academic societies from France, USA, Germany, Italy, Ecuador, Russia. He received the prize Manley-Bendall (medal “Prince Albert I-er de Monaco”) offered by France in 1978. Vice-president of CIESMM, he organised a session of this international organism in Bucharest in 1968.

Corresponding Member of Romanian Academy since 1963 and full member in 1990. Co-founder of the „Romanian Fauna” publications edited by the Romanian Academy where he published three fascicles (Cumacea, Mysidacea and Decapoda).

He was invited to join different prestigious oceanographic expeditions in the Pacific Ocean, coasts of Peru and Chile with R.V. „Anton Bruun” (1965), Atlantic and Indian Oceans with R.V. „Thalassa” (1971, 1977). He organised the first Romanian scientific expedition for the survey of Tanzanian coral reefs (1973).

Academician Mihai Băcescu was one of the most important carcinologist of the world. He described 334 taxa of Cumacea, Mysidacea, Tanaidacea, and Isopoda.

He published about 480 papers in Romania and abroad, scientific and of science vulgarisation. Mihai Băcescu is the author of 2 volumes of Crustaceorum catalogues dedicated to Cumacea and of the chapter of Cumacea from the prestigious French *Traité de zoologie* (his last antumous paper).