

Professor Leon Stuchlik Octogenarian

A homage to the Editor and Co-author of the “Atlas of Pollen and Spores of the Polish Neogene”

Professor-Emeritus Leon Stuchlik, Ph.D., Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences a renowned specialist in Palaeogene and Neogene floras, is happily greeted on the special occasion of his Eighty Anniversary by his close co-workers.

His long scientific career is an expression of his wide interests in botany, both the green and the palaeobotanic ones. His passion for botanic exploration of distant countries – North Korea, Cuba, India, China, USA, and the European ones (including the Caucasus), have resulted in long-term scientific co-operation with many distinguished palaeobotanists and botanists all over the world. As a result, numerous papers, devoted mainly to palynological problems, were published, elaborated jointly with C. Álvarez-Ramis (Spain), M. Konzalová (Czech Republic), E. Kvačadze and I. Shatilova (Georgia), M. Moncada (Cuba), E. Planderová (Slovakia), S. Syabryay (Ukraine) and W. Walther (Germany).

At the start of his palynological studies, was an elaboration of palynomorphs from the Miocene deposits at Rypin (Poland), that became his Ph. D. thesis defended at the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1963. His promotor was Professor Władysław Szafer who, afterwards, delegated the young doctor for post-doctoral studies to Sweden (Solna near Stockholm), where he could improve his skills under guidance of Professor Gunnar Erdtman. Stuchlik's main interests at that time was morphology of pollen grains and palynotaxonomy, with a special emphasis on the Polemoniaceae family. The results of his studies published in 1967, in the journal *Grana Palynologica*, were the first of this kind published in Poland, and one of a few only known at that time from world literature. Based on this study, Dr Leon Stuchlik, a 37-year old scientist, was granted the Doctor habilitatus degree at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences of the Jagiellonian University (Cracow).

Helped by his wide botanical interests, and a profound knowledge of contemporaneous floras, both Middle European, subtropical and tropical ones, Professor Stuchlik was then able to deepen his analysis of Cenozoic palynofloras and significantly contribute to their stratigraphic and palaeophytosociological aspects.

At the turn of the century, uncertainties in taxonomy and nomenclature of Neogene pollen and spores from the Polish and Middle European sites created difficulties in stratigraphic correlation, and even hampered scientific cooperation. To improve this, a multi-year study of these aspects was undertaken in Poland in 90th of the twenty century, based on about 300 well known pollen sites. This study was aimed at creating an atlas of Late Cenozoic (Neogene) sporomorphs, in which taxonomy would be closer interrelated with stratigraphic palynology, contemporaneous botany and plant geography.

Thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated specialists guided by Professor Leon Stuchlik as its animator and editor, the *Atlas of Pollen and Spores of the Polish Neogene* is coming to life. Its three volumes including: (1) Spores; (2) Gymnosperms; and (3) Angiosperms (Part 1) have already been printed by the Publishing Office of the W. Szafer Institute of Botany Polish Academy of Sciences (in Cracow) in the years 2001, 2002 and 2009, respectively. The fourth volume – Angiosperms (Part 2) – is under final preparation.

The team of the authors of the *Atlas* consisted initially of: Irena Grabowska, M.Sc., Dr. Barbara



The authors team of the Atlas, Warszawa 2000. From the left: I. Grabowska, H. Ważyńska, A. Sadowska, B. Słodkowska, L. Stuchlik, M. Ziemińska-Tworzydło, A. Kohlman-Adamska (arch. B. Słodkowska)

Słodkowska and Hanna Ważyńska, M.Sc. from the Polish Geological Institute (Warsaw), Dr. Aleksandra Kohlman-Adamska from the Museum of the Earth, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw), Prof. Anna Sadowska from the Wrocław University and Dr. Maria Ziemińska-Tworzydło from the Warsaw University. Dr. Ewa Durska (Warsaw University) and Dr. Elżbieta Worobiec (Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow) joined the team at a later date in order to continue the work of Prof. Sadowska who, unfortunately, passed away in 2005.

The acting Team of Authors of the “Atlas” wants to thank cordially Professor Leon Stuchlik, its Head and Editor of the *Atlas*, for his excellent work, wishing him all the best, good health, and enough strength to finish the fourth volume – now in a final editorial stage.

*On behalf of the Team of the Authors
Aleksandra Kohlman-Adamska and Maria Ziemińska-Tworzydło
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