

PROF. NINA TODOROVA BAKARDJIEVA HAS A JUBILEE

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Prof. Nina Todorova Bakardjieva was born on 14 December 1932 in Sofia and received her secondary education at the 4th Sofia High School for Girls. During the period 1950-1955, she studied Biology at the Faculty of Biology, Geology and Geography of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She has completed her five-year scientific research education on physiology and biochemistry of plants with excellence. After obtaining her University degree she started work at the Institute of Biology, founded in 1948 and led by the remarkable Bulgarian scientist Academician Methodii Popov until 1955. In 1964, the institute changed its name to Institute of Plant Physiology "Acad. M. Popov", and later it was transformed to the present Institute of Plant Physiology and Genetics. In the period 1955-1959, Prof. Nina Bakardjieva did her biology PhD thesis studies specializing in Biology and Plant Physiology. Initially her scientific supervisor was Professor Petar Iliev and later she worked under Prof. Cyril Popov's supervision. At the same time she was under supervision on Theoretical Problems of Biology by Academician Radoy Popivanov. She had the chance to learn and to be guided by of the most prominent Bulgarian scientists in the field. She successfully defended her Thesis and acquired PhD degree in 1966. In 1982, the authorship of the monograph "Ionic Regulation of Plant Metabolism"

(1980, Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), presenting a new scientific hypothesis for the regulatory role of microelements and their role in plant regulatory system, promoted her to Doctor of sciences (DrSc) degree in Biological Sciences. The same year she was awarded the prestigious prize of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB) for Achievements in Science and later she became an honorary member of the USB. In 1984, she became a full Professor.

Prof. Nina Bakardjieva has authored and co-authored 132 scientific publications in national and international journals and 103 articles for the specialized and popular press. She has 1 author's certificate of invention. She has participated in more than 40 scientific congresses and symposiums in Bulgaria and abroad. Fluent in Russian, German and English Prof. Bakardjieva was able to establish and develop excellent professional collaborations with researchers from Russia, Poland, France, Germany and Austria. Prof. Nina Bakardjieva has various scientific interests and respectively multilateral research activity. She has studied in details the regulation and heterogeneity of enzymes from oxygen metabolism. Another subject of her research covers studies on the ion regulation of metabolism. Her broad scientific interests motivated her theoretical studies in the field of the origin and evolution of life, as well as of

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some philosophical aspects in biology. With consistency and persistence, she has analyzed the evolution of plant metabolism, structural and functional relationship of the self-regulatory mechanisms in biological systems and the reaction to stress of evolutionary distinct plant groups, the structural and functional relations in the pre-biological and biological evolution, the origin and essence of life, the self-control in living systems. She was the first researcher who introduced the immunochemistry methods for plant proteins analyses in the Institute of Plant Physiology. From 1973 to 2000, she read lectures at the Faculty of Biology on Functional Biochemistry of Plants, Plant Physiology, as well as she gave special courses on self-regulatory mechanisms in plant metabolism. She has successfully tutored 11 graduate- and 2 post-graduate students to whom she transferred her experience and knowledge.

Together with Professor Georgi Georgiev, Head of the Department of Plant Physiology at Sofia University, Prof. Nina Bakardjieva has made a significant contribution for the establishment of the Department "Selfregulation of Plant Metabolism" in the Institute of Plant Physiology in 1972, which she led from 1984 to 2001. During this period she successfully organized 3 international symposia on "Selfregulation of plant metabolism", attended by high profile scientists from Germany, Russia, France, Japan, etc. The section "Theoretical and Evolutionary Biology" in the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria was established by her initiative in 1994. As a chair of the section for 15 years, she introduced active seminar activity covering different subjects in the field. For more than 2

decades, she has been a member of the International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life (ISSOL). She has been a very active member of a number of scientific councils, editorial boards and scientific expert committees, and a Chief Scientific Secretary of the Higher Attestation Commission at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria from 1993 until the end of the mandate in 1995. She had impressive participations in programs aired by Radio Bulgaria and Radio Sofia in 1997, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The scientific work and creative activity of Prof. Nina Bakardjieva continued after her retirement in 2001. Dr. Bakardjieva is a talented writer with broad erudition. Her fascinating writing style is comprehensible for the general public, thus drawing the attention of the readers to the existing problems in nowadays science and society. In 2007, she published the monograph "The Phenomenon of Life: Do We Know It?" (Publishing House of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria). In 2004 and 2013, she published the books "Throw the Meanderings of my Life" (Publishing House AB) and "Thoughts about Nature and People" (Print House Point+). Her interest in the theories of the origin and evolution of life has not diminished till today.

As a former postgraduate and a colleague I wish Prof. Nina Bakardjieva first of all a healthy and cheerful spirit in order to surprise us again with her exciting creative work!

Happy 85th Anniversary!

Prof. Klimentina Demirevska