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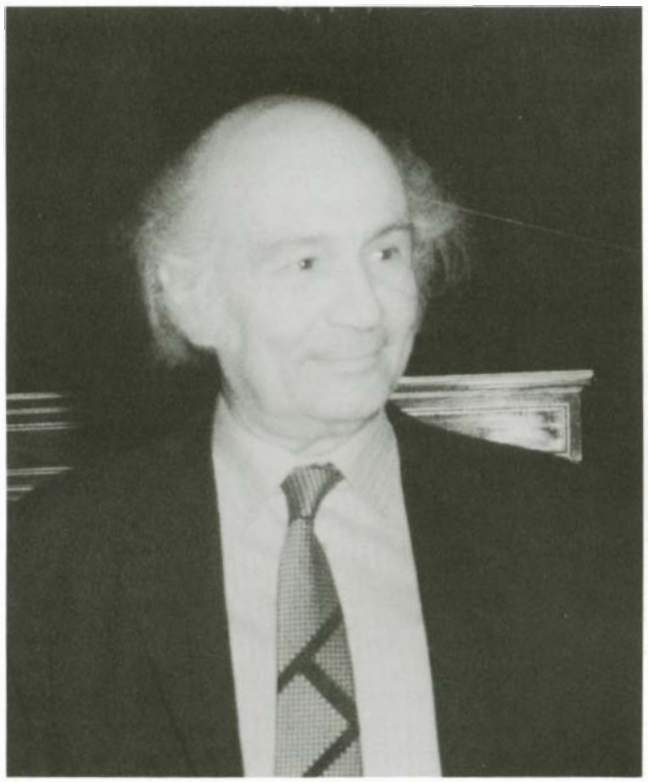
IN MEMORIAM

KONSTANTINOS ANAGNOSTIDIS
(12 December 1924–9 December 1994)



On 9 December 1994, Kostas Anagnostidis died after a long struggle with heart disease and kidney cancer. The funeral ceremony tragically coincided with his 70th birthday. Nitsa, his dedicated partner in life, along with daughter Marialena and two grandchildren, Kostis and Philippos, survive him. With his death phycology lost a prominent researcher on taxonomy of cyanobacteria.

Kostas was born in Thessaloniki in 1924 and had a troubled childhood. His separated parents belonging to the Greek diaspora migrated from Asia Minor and Caucasus to Thessaloniki after the first world war. Kostas started undergraduate studies in medicine, served for three years (1947–1950) in the Greek army, and later decided to pursue a degree in Natural Sciences. He received his diploma from the University of Thessaloniki in 1952. After graduating he earned his living as a high school biology teacher (1952–1959) while preparing his doctoral dissertation. He lectured at the University of Thessaloniki until 1969 when he was appointed Professor of Systematic Botany at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Athens.

Until the time of his official retirement at the age of 67 in 1991, Kostas served as Director of the Institute of Systematic Botany, the Botanic Museum and the Botanic Garden of Athens University. He pioneered the fields of phycology and limnology in Greece and served on numerous scientific committees. He was appointed National Representative of Greece to the International Society of Limnology. He presided over the IAC (International Association of Cyanophyte Research) from 1986.

An early milestone in Kostas Anagnostidis' research is his thesis (1961) on thermal blue-green algae, a respected monograph in taxonomy of cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria continued to be his favourite subject throughout his career, but he expanded his research to include other groups of algae and bacteria. His work was influenced by the studies of V. Vouk, E. Pringsheim and H. Skuja. During Humboldt and Max-Planck Gesellschaft scholarships he collaborated with J. Overbeck and the late G. Schwabe on the phototrophic bacteria of lake Plußsee. His long stay at the Institute of Limnology at Plön, Germany, made him an expert on the benthic hypolimnetic bacterial assemblages. Nevertheless, the 'warm' Greek lakes and their relation to freshwater ecosystems of northern Europe was a predominant part of his research interest. His *dozent* thesis (1968) on the 'sulphureta' of various marine and freshwater habitats of Greece constitutes an interesting monograph on sulphur bacteria and accompanying groups of algae.

Recognition of the ecological importance of the oxyphototrophic cyanoprocaryotes and other groups of bacteria, led Kostas to focus on the arduous discipline of their taxonomy and ecology in natural habitats. The extreme biotopes (marine coastal habitats, hypersaline biotopes, volcanic substrates, aerophytic rocks etc) were considered by him and his students as 'model' study sites. He modified conventional methodology and applied it when exploring the endolithic limestone microflora of coastal marine and freshwater localities in Greece. His studies on the motility of cyanoprocaryotes and their morphological variation under environmental stress portray his exceptional observation talent and ability to distinguish the various morphs and ecotypes. As a result of these studies, numerous types of cyanoprocaryotic taxa were described and older descriptions revised.

The above cited background, including extensive field experience, enabled Kostas to revise the traditional classification system of the cyanoprocaryotes. The morphological simplicity, unique speciation and ecological sensitivity of cyanoprocaryotes—inducing ecovariation and sometimes complicated life cycles—were taken into account in his modern approach

to classification. Kostas' philosophy relied on meticulously heeding the taxonomic criteria.

Kostas' endeavour to use a variety of criteria in cyanobacterial taxonomy was supported by his vast knowledge of literature and ability to compare and combine data obtained by traditional and modern methods. This approach of respecting all literary sources made his participation in the revision of the modern system of cyanoprocaryotes, in collaboration with J. Komárek, quite unique. Unfortunately he did not live to see the conclusion of his scientific efforts, completion and publication of his modern classification system and the relevant identification keys.

Kostas died at a high time of his writing activities and leaves a huge amount of unpublished work. His coworkers in the Section of Ecology and Systematics of the Athens University will miss his leading hand, his ideas, inspiration, and encouragement and his warm human nature. The colleagues and friends abroad will miss his hospitality and vivid personality. His close collaborator in recent years, J. Komárek, will complete and publish his manuscripts.

Athena Economou-Amilli, Athens
Jiri Komárek, Trebon

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