



Obituary

All those who work on the *Ecotoxicology* Editorial Board and those who knew Professor Jan Sarosiek sadly regret his passing on January 14, 2000. Prof. Sarosiek had been serving as a member of the *Ecotoxicology* Editorial Board for the past 9 years.

Prof. Sarosiek was born July 29, 1929 in Białystok, Poland. He graduated in 1954 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Wrocław in biology. His academic career was spent at the Institute of Botany where he started his studies and later obtained his Ph.D. (1961) and Dr. of Science (1971). In 1989 he was nominated to full professor and later retired in 1999 as the Ecology and Environmental Protection Department Head. During his prestigious career he helped 23 Ph.D. students and 4 Drs. of Science by supervising and promoting their studies. He died only a few hours after his last Ph.D. student defended his thesis.

His activities were numerous and include nearly 280 published papers and articles, mostly original research. His work was cited in internationally recognised periodicals and addressed various aspects of plant ecology. Portions of his research projects focused on biogeochemistry of metals, patterns of their selective accumulation by plants, adaptive strategies of plants to serpentinites, bio-indication of chemical pollution, e.g. germanium and beryllium coming from air dust particulates emitted during metal processing.

He also studied sensitivity patterns of various plant species to environmental chemicals, both inorganic and organic; he also developed and implemented biotesting procedures using liver-

worts *Riccia chuitans* and *Riccicarpus natans*. Another area of his interests and activities was the radiation plant ecology and biomonitoring of radiation of natural or industrial origin, using various water plant and fish species. He was also active in studying the effects of magnetic fields on water plants.

In the environmental protection arena he was well known as an orchid specialist and organizer of international conferences within this topic. In 1978, he became a member of the Orchid Specialist Group for the World Conservation Union and in 1987 he became a member of the American Orchid Society.

Up until his death, he was active in teaching and giving lectures as well as organizing workshop and seminars about general ecology, plant ecology, radioecology and environmental protection. Under his supervision 424 M.Sc. students received their degrees.

He also participated with various scientific committees and societies and he received the Coty of Wrocław in 1997 for his work in ecological education.

Despite physical ailments, Prof. Sarosiek was an active and invaluable member of the *Ecotoxicology* Editorial Board and his presence and insight will be missed. He is an inspiration to us all for his dedication to his students and research and above all his determination to remain an active part of his work despite his physical challenges and pain.

Pawel Migula