

HONORED BOTANIST AND MYCOLOGIST

(on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of Academician of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia Lia L. Osipyan)

All of the professional activity of academic of NAS of the Republic of Armenia Lia Osipyan is linked with the Yerevan State University, where her career path started from laboratory assistant to head of the botany department and dean of the faculty of biology. Lia Levonovna was at the forefront of the formation of a scientific community at the Yerevan State University.



L.L. Osipyan continued and significantly expanded research into the fungal biodiversity of Armenia, studying a number of new natural and artificial species and establishing the area of experimental mycological research in Armenia.

L.L. Osipyan conducted fundamental studies in the area of systematics, floristics, ecology and physiological activity of fungi. Her research

covered various specialized areas of mycology such as phytopathological, mycohydrologic, medical, veterinary and industrial mycology. L. Osipyan was the first in Armenia to study water fungi. Fungi present in mountain reservoirs and watercourses were a new sphere in mycology.

Realizing the practical importance of modern mycology, L.L. Osipyan felt the need to expand mycofloristic studies and her work covered a number of new species from natural and artificial ecosystems, many of which had not been studied earlier or were not well known. All her accumulated experience led L.L. Osipyan to the need for integrating these historically isolated areas of mycology. Based on the literature, she strived to prove the advantages of an integrated approach to mycological research.

Opportunistic, potentially pathogenic fungi of primary and accompanying illnesses in humans, which are seen today as one of the largest problems in medical mycology, were studied by L.L. Osipyan in ophthalmological patients. These studies showed that mycology has an important role to play in the diagnosis of the pathogen and a targeted treatment of the illness. At the present time, Academician leads on the research of fungi, which play a role in onychomycosis and vulvovaginitis.

For more than 30 years, Osipyan's scientific work was dedicated to issues of mycological safety in food products and medical substances. A procedure was

developed for expert study into the contamination of food products by fungi along the whole chain of their production, starting from the raw material, the processing and storage of ready products in storages, freezers, shops and in homes. The studies covered not only all the stages of the technological process, but also the hygienic state of the equipment and inventory, the atmosphere of industrial and storage areas as well as potential infection of ready food products.

Special studies were organized with a group of students in order to detect the toxigenicity and the toxinogenic properties of the contaminating fungi as well as the variability of these properties during the process of food production. The first Armenian state standards on the methods to detect mold fungi and mycotoxins in food products were developed by the scientists in this group. L.L. Osipyan developed a concept for guaranteeing safe food production in the prevailing conditions in Armenia.

Lia Osipyan managed to successfully combine prolific scientific work with pedagogical activity. Osipyan's scientific and administrative work was especially well seen during her time as head of the faculty of biology as its dean and head of the department of botany.

L.L. Osipyan has authored more than 400 scientific articles, including 6 monographs dedicated to fungi causing diseases in plants, the spoilage and toxicity of food products, mycoses in humans as well as water fungi and other species. New species of fungi were discovered and described. Last year Osipyan has published the eighth volume of multivolume publication "Mycobiota of Armenia".

She has trained around 20 PhD students who are now successfully continuing the work of their teacher.

The results of the research done by L.L. Osipyan have been presented at numerous scientific forums in Russian Federation, the United States of America, Canada, Israel, China, Ukraine and other countries. She has read lectures at different foreign universities.

L.L. Osipyan is a long standing member of various scientific societies, editor and member of the editorial board of a number of scientific journals, including Proceedings of the YSU, where she is working since 1990.

We extend our cordially congratulations to Lia L. Osipyan for 85th anniversary. Working with her has been a real honor and we value each and every transaction and deal.

We wish her all the best for many more years to come.

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