

IN MEMORIAM

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With great respect and sorrow, we say our last goodbye to Dr. Ilija Vukadin, an esteemed researcher in the area of marine chemistry.



Dr. ILIJA VUKADIN
1942-2025

(photo by Dr. Danijela Bogner)

Dr. Ilija Vukadin, a retired research associate of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, passed away in Split on 16 December 2025 at the age of 84. The passing of our colleague, who spent his entire career at the Institute and was a respected scientist in the field of marine nutrients and a renowned marine chemist, is a great loss to all of us, his colleagues and friends.

Dr. Ilija Vukadin was born on 30 July 1942 in Srđevići near Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he completed his primary and secondary education. He was educated at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Natural Sciences, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1968. At the same faculty, in 1972, he earned a master's degree with the thesis "Introduction to automatic analytical methods using the Technicon autoanalyzer and interpretation of the obtained results", and was awarded the title of Master of Chemical Sciences. At the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, he obtained a doctorate in

1991 with the thesis "Biogeochemical cycle of dissolved nutrient salts C, N, Si, and P in the sea waters of the middle Adriatic".

In 1968, he received a scholarship at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split. From 1973 until his retirement in 2007, Dr. Vukadin worked at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, in the Hydrochemistry Laboratory, now the Laboratory of Chemical Oceanography and Sedimentology of the Sea. From the late 1970s to the 1990s, the Hydrochemistry Laboratory was formally led by Dr. Mira Zore-Armanda (who was also head of the Laboratory for Physical Oceanography); however, it was Dr. Vukadin who oversaw the expansion of the laboratory's scope into electrochemistry and the study of heavy metals in shellfish. In the early 1980s, he undertook professional training in London for four months to expand his expertise in marine chemistry.

During his career, Dr. Vukadin published 25 original scientific papers. His research mainly concerned the spatial and temporal distribution of nutrients and the

occurrence of eutrophication in the central and south Adriatic, but he also studied heavy metals in seawater, marine organisms, and sediment. Dr. Vukadin actively participated in many national and international conferences, especially those organised by The Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM).

Since he began working at the Institute, he has contributed to numerous environmental studies, providing his expertise on physicochemical parameters, nutrients, and, in the 1990s, the impacts of heavy metals in seawater and sediment. Among these studies, the Vir-Konavle Project stands out, in which he participated from its inception in 1977 until his retirement.

Dr Vukadin supervised 10 theses, some of which offered novel perspectives, such as research on the con-

centration of urea or uric acid in the coastal area, or determining the concentrations of nutrient salts in the surface microlayer, where he contributed to the development of a microlayer sampler.

Apart from his valuable scientific contributions, Dr. Vukadin will be remembered by his colleagues and friends as an open-minded person who was always willing to help and selflessly share his extensive knowledge and expertise. We will miss his scientific vigour and cheerful spirit alike.

Dr. Danijela Bogner

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