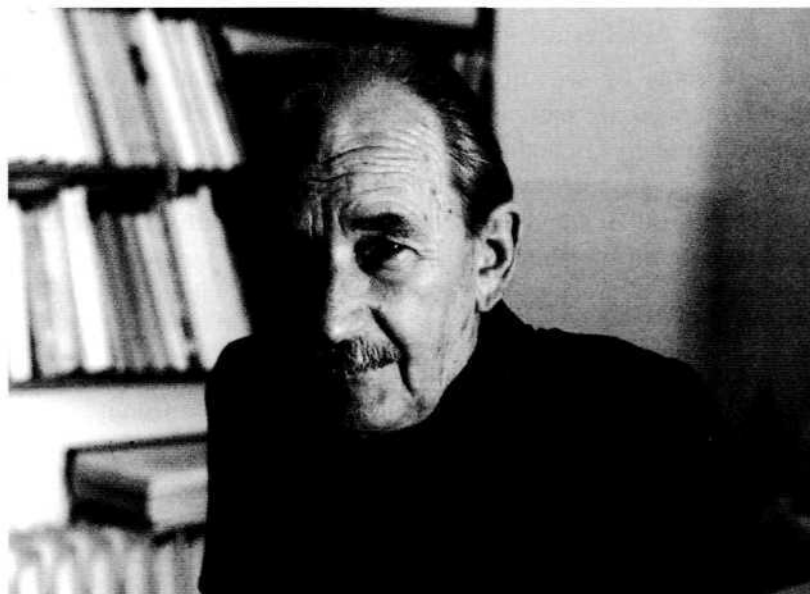


This volume is dedicated to the our colleague dr. Ante ŠPAN who devoted whole life to phytobentos research in the Adriatic Sea.



Dr. Ante ŠPAN

1929 - 2001

Dr. Ante ŠPAN was born on 10 June 1929 in Split where he attended elementary and high school. He earned his first degree from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, Republic of Slovenia, in 1960. Dr. Špan began to work at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Split (IOF) during his senior student year and became assistant to Dr. Ante Ercegović. Dr. Špan earned his Ph.D. degree in 1972 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Zagreb, with the thesis "The *Sargassum* genera in the Adriatic – morphological, systematic and ecological elaboration". He spent his entire working career (1953-1999) in the Laboratory for Benthos of the IOF.

Under the guidance of Dr. Ercegović at the beginning of his work, Dr. Špan began to collect, store in herbarium, and draw many benthic algae taxa. He greatly contributed to the knowledge on composition and distribution of benthic flora and vegetation along the eastern Adriatic coast. During his first ten years, Dr. Špan studied coverage, biomass, and growth of leading benthic taxa from the *Cystoseira* genus *in situ*. Špan also collected abundant material for morphological, systematic, and ecological studies of the *Sargassum* genus in the Adriatic and elaborated his findings in his doctoral thesis. In the 1960s, Špan was the first scientist to study benthic flora and fauna in national territory by collecting samples by SCUBA divers. This method enabled him to collect abundant phytobenthic material from different parts of the Adriatic Sea and make checklists of small and large areas on the eastern Adriatic coast (near the towns of Split, Rijeka, Makarska, and Dubrovnik and in Boka Kotorska Bay, south Adriatic), near the islands of Hvar, Brač, Lokrum, Krk, Palgruža, Vis, and Biševo, and in the Kornati and Mljet national parks.

In addition to his floristic and vegetation research of phytobenthos in the Adriatic, Špan investigated, together with Dr. Helena Gamulin-Brida and collaborators, the composition and distribution of benthic communities and changes resulting from natural and anthropogenic impacts. Dr. Špan also studied overgrowing and characteristic genetic organ formations from Adriatic open waters known as "roadways". Unfortunately, these results, although elaborated, have not yet been published.

Dr. Špan published some 85 scientific papers and communications in different national and international scientific journals. He participated in over a hundred elaborates as head of the project or member of the research team. In addition to his research, Špan taught at the University of Split (Faculty of Chemistry and Technology, Department of Ecology), Faculty of Natural Sciences, pedagogic studies (Department Biology-Chemistry), Maritime Faculty (Department of Fishery), and postgraduate classes at Zagreb University (Departments of Biology and Oceanology). He unselfishly transferred his knowledge to many students following their graduation, helping them prepare their M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses.

Dr. Špan was a member of many scientific and professional biological and ecological associations and actively participated in the work of the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM). From 1965 to 1979, he was head of the Phytobenthos Laboratory of CHIESM. From 1980 to 1999 (when he retired), he headed the Laboratory of Benthos (Phyto and Zoobenthos). He served as president of the scientific council of the IOF for two mandates and, in the absence of an institute director, acted as assistant director. Špan was a member of the international Croatian-Italian commission for research of the Adriatic, and responsible for research in the middle Adriatic. He was member of the administration council of the Kornati National Park.

Dr. Špan visited many scientific institutions in Spain, Italy, France, Sweden, and Lebanon (Beirut) where he acquired new scientific and professional cognition.

Being involved in so many projects and pedagogic work, he unfortunately did not publish many of his results. Therefore, to honor his memory, we decided to publish his doctorate as it was written many years ago. We did not modernize his original determinations assuming that we do not have such authority and that the original text retains its scientific value.

We lost Dr. Ante Špan on 27 August 2001 at the age of 72. He left us not only his valuable scientific and pedagogic work but also the many precious moments he spent with us in the Institute and during field work on the ships "Predvodnik" and "Bios". We will remember Dr. Špan as an extremely quiet and modest man, diligent and self-sacrificing, and always ready to help his colleagues.

Dr. Boris ANTOLIĆ

Ante ŠPAN

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