

This volume is dedicated to our colleague **DR. TEREZA PUCHER-PETKOVIĆ** who was devoted to research of the primary production and taxonomy of phytoplankton community in the Adriatic.



DR. TEREZA PUCHER-PETKOVIĆ
1928 – 2010

Dr. Tereza Pucher-Petković belongs to the so-called “Golden Generation” of the Institute, whose contribution to the study of the Adriatic will remain indelibly written in the history of oceanography of the Adriatic, since their research provided the first answers to a series of questions regarding physical and biological principles essential to the functioning of the ecosystem of the Adriatic. She was born in Ljubljana where, in 1952, she graduated in biology at the Faculty of Science. Shortly after graduation, at the beginning of 1953, she started working at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split, in which she spent her entire working life.

Immediately upon her arrival at the Institute, she was included in research being conducted by a group of excellent scientists: academician Tonko Šoljan, Dr. Otmar Karlovac and Dr. Miroslav Buljan, who very ably organized various research themes and within those employed a large number of young scientists. Dr. Pucher-Petković began to work on issues regarding phytoplankton and primary production and, given that there were no specialists of this profile in the country at that time, she went for vocational training in Norway and Denmark. In Norway, the specialization was conducted by Professor Greta Hasl, one of the best taxonomists in the field of phytoplankton, while in Denmark she worked with the legendary oceanographer Dr. Steeman-Nielsen, who first applied the method of radioactive carbon for measuring primary production in the sea. After her return from Denmark, Dr. Pucher-Petković applied the same method in the waters of the Adriatic, which gave the first data on primary production of the Adriatic Sea. With the results of the primary production and the analysis of fluctuations in the composition of the phytoplankton community, Dr. Pucher-Petković has made an outstanding contribution to the development and confirmation of Dr. Buljan's hypothesis on Adriatic ingression, since the results of studies of primary production provide some of the best evidence of the Adriatic ingression.

Particularly interesting research in the Institute, which in the late sixties sparked great interest in the scientific community around the Mediterranean, was related to forecasts of catch of small pelagic fish. In these studies, Dr. Tereza Pucher-Petković used primary production as one of the key parameters by which one could predict the catch of small pelagic fish, as the fluctuations of primary production are directly related to the multi-year fluctuations in the stock of small pelagic fish.

The taxonomic-ecological studies of Dr. Pucher-Petković of the Adriatic phytoplankton community linked her directly to the research of German, Austrian and Italian scientists who, during the 19th and early 20th century, studied phytoplankton of the Adriatic. Therefore she is considered as the first Croatian phytoplanktologist from whom all of today's phytoplanktologists on the eastern side of the Adriatic, from Slovenia to Montenegro, have learned.

Although phytoplankton and primary production were her specialty, her extremely broad knowledge of all the other links of the marine ecosystem enabled her to research and consider every problem as a whole. During her lifetime, Dr. Tereza Pucher-Petković has published over 120 scientific papers, of which the greater part was presented at numerous international conferences. Her expertise was recognized in an area much broader than the Adriatic Sea as for almost two decades she represented the former Yugoslavia, later the Republic of Croatia, in the Scientific Committee of the CIESM (International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea). She was elected to two terms as President of the Mediterranean Committee on Plankton.

Even after her retirement, Dr. Tereza Pucher-Petković has actively participated in the work of the Institute, especially on issues of the scientific journal *Acta Adriatica* where her broad expertise and good knowledge of editorial work, significantly contributed to the quality of the journal.

The work of Dr. Tereza Pucher-Petković will remain indelibly embedded in the foundations of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, as well as in the history of oceanography of the Adriatic where she will be remembered as one of its founders.

Prof. Ivona Marasović

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