

This volume is dedicated to our defunct colleague dr. Ante ŠIMUNOVIĆ who made a significant contribution to the knowledge of macrobenthic animals in the Adriatic Sea.



Dr. sc. Ante Šimunović
1934 – 2004

Dr. Ante ŠIMUNOVIĆ, Croatian marine biologist, was born in Dračevica on Brač Island on 22 October 1934. He attended elementary school and Classic Gymnasium in Split, and graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Zagreb. After graduation, Dr. Šimunović began his career as an assistant in the laboratory of zoobenthos at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF) in Split. He retired as the head of the laboratory.

Dr. Šimunović earned his M.Sc. degree at the Zagreb University in 1968 with the thesis "Contribution to Knowledge on Fauna Communities in Relation to Ecological Factors of Supralittoral, Mediolittoral and the Above Part of Infralittoral of Cliffs of Middle Adriatic". This subject, together with study of the different levels of life zones, was his main field of research throughout his career at the IOF and after retirement when he worked as an outside collaborator. He studied the composition and distribution of animals living on the sea bottom, systematically elaborated many macrobenthic animals, and contributed to increasing knowledge of biology and ecology of many benthos species that enabled enactment of responsible laws relating to fisheries and nature protection.

The scientific work of Dr. Šimunović covered different issues such as collecting and determining Gastropoda by giving significant data on their biology and ecology. These data were published in his Ph.D. thesis "Ecological and Biogeographic Studies on Gastropoda Prosobranchiata in the East Adriatic Sea and their Relation to Benthic Biocenosis" in 1991.

In the 1980s, Dr. Šimunović accepted an invitation to join a scientific research group from the western Adriatic that investigated benthic communities with the trawler PIPETA at depths of 12 m in the northern Adriatic to 400 m in the southern. During the PIPETA Expeditions (1982-1995), Dr. Šimunović participated in twenty-four data collecting cruises during all seasons and difficult meteorological conditions, showing how dearly he loved field work and how devoted he was to his research. The expeditions studied all species, not only species of commercial interest. By studying catches, unique qualitative and quantitative data on the distribution of all the invertebrates in an area of 58 509 km² were obtained.

Dr. Šimunović participated in research outside Croatia including Beirut (Lebanon; 1965), Kiev and Odessa (former USSR; 1968), Arcachon (France; 1969), Helsingør (Denmark; 1971), Portorož (Slovenia; 1971-2), Marseille (France; 1973), Taranto (Italy; 1977-9), and Espergend (Norway; 1980). He participated as the head or a member of numerous research expeditions.

Dr. Ante Šimunović published over fifty papers in domestic and foreign journals, congress proceedings, and reports and was a member of the Biology and Ecology Society (CIESM).

Besides his research work, Dr. Šimunović was particularly devoted to pedagogy and popularization of marine science, especially zoology and ecology. He unselfishly guided his students through graduation and preparation of M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses.

Dr. Šimunović made a significant contribution in introducing the general public to the sea bottom through his co-authorship of the book "Invertebrates of the Adriatic Sea Bottom".

We will all remember our dear colleague Dr. Ante Šimunović not only for his work but also as a friend always ready to help and encourage in overcoming the obstacles during field work on the research vessels "PREDVODNIK" and "BIOS".

Dr. sc. Ivana GRUBELIĆ

Ante ŠIMUNOVIĆ
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