



Dr. Ileana Negoescu at Her 70th Anniversary

Dr. Ileana Negoescu celebrated on April 28th her 70th anniversary. She was born and spent her entire life in Bucharest, in a natural area close to Colentina River. She spent her childhood with her parents in the grandparent's home, surrounded by a beautiful garden with old trees, beautiful flowers and fascinating little animals, playing on the lake shore. Maybe that was the moment when she falls in love with nature and water life. The loving family later influenced her spiritual development. She remembers being raised to have faith, to respect other people and her country, to be humble.

Her maternal grandfather, Ștefan Blezu, originating in Rășinariii Sibiului, could have been a relative of Stanca Blezu, the mother of Hilarie Mitrea, which was one of the most important donors of the “Grigore Antipa” Natural History Museum. Ștefan Blezu worked as a topographic engineer under the supervision of Prof. Dimitrie Leonida, to develop national wide projects like the Bicz Lake, drying the Colentina wet area, or the building of natural parks in the northern Bucharest metropolitan area. Her paternal grandfather worked as a drawer for the National Railway services; perhaps Dr. Ileana Negoescu inherited from him the drawing skills, a talent so necessary to a taxonomist.

Like other families in Romania, the dark communist time negatively affected her family as well.

Her parents, Victor and Alexandra Negoescu, dedicated their life to the education and guidance of their daughter, inspiring her to be an ambitious person. During the unforgettable holiday trips they organized, her parents continuously encouraged her love for beauty, for nature, for traveling. This love never left her and later in her life, she visited many countries, either as a professional taxonomist or merely as a tourist.

Her father received a German education and fought in World War II, when he was injured in battle. He influenced the most his daughter's personality, teaching her the rigorousness and the discipline so necessary to a scientist.

She started her studies in the Mavrogheni school, not far from the museum, where she would later spend 42 years of her professional life. After these three years she moved to the "Ion Luca Caragiale" High-School, followed by five years (1965–1970) in the Biological Faculty of the University of Bucharest. There she met wonderful professors who helped her grow as a young scientist. She spent endless hours in front of a microscope equipped with a drawing device, studying Gamasid mites under the guidance of Prof. Maria Suciu. The famous professor Radu Codreanu, a member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences, was her supervisor for her diploma thesis.

After being awarded her B.Sc. degree, she started to teach biology in several localities in Southern Romania, working at the same time as a biologist in the Central Laboratory for Veterinary Diagnostic in Bucharest.

She was married, but during our long talks she was telling us that probably she was meant to acquire more success as a scientist than with her family life.

On December 27th, 1974, she started to work as a scientist in the "Grigore Antipa" Natural History Museum, where she still works even after her retirement. She started as a junior staff member, worked later as a curator and raised to the position of senior scientist in 2002. She was the head of the Invertebrate Department between 1995 and 1998 and head of the Editorial Department of the museum between 1999 and 2009.

In the Museum, her work was prolific, either as a curator, as an editor of the museum journal or as a scientist. Immediately after joining the museum, she was guided by the then director of the museum, Dr. Mihai Băcescu, member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences, who convinced her to start the study of a marine crustacean group, Isopoda Anthuroidea. She is still among the few world scientist working on this taxonomic group. She also worked on crustaceans belonging to Asellota, Flabellifera and Oniscidea.

On June 22nd, 1997, she defended her Ph.D. thesis on the systematics and zoogeography of Anthuroidean Isopods (Crustacea, Isopoda, Anthuroidea), under the supervision of Dr. Petru Bănărescu, member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. Her findings were published in 51 conference papers, at national and/or international level on Isopods and particularly Anthuroideans. She described 44 new species and 1 genus and re-described or completed the description of 17 Anthuroidean species. The study material was collected in 57 world areas, from the arctic to the subantarctic region, from the Arctic Ocean (Greenland, Iceland), Atlantic Ocean (including Carribean Sea), Mediteranean Sea, Suez Channel, Indian Ocean, Sout-Western Pacific Ocean, subantarctic islands, from marine waters to freshwater, from epigeic and hypogeic environment.

As a world known crustacean scholar, Dr. Ileana Negoescu studied collections from various institutions around the world. Because of the political situation in Romania, she could only travel abroad after 1989. She was sent study material by fellow researchers from Romania (The National Institute for Marine Research and

Development “Grigore Antipa” Constanta and The Institute Of Speleology “Emil Racoviță” Bucharest) or abroad (CENTOB – IFREMER Brest, University Aix-Marseille, The National Museum of Natural History Paris, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of California, San Diego, University of Oldenburg, Ruhr University Bochum, The Institute for Polar Ecology (IPÖ) of Kiel University, The Zoological Museum of the University of Hamburg, The Zoological Museum Amsterdam, The Biological Institute, Reykjavik, The Zoological Museum of The Natural History Museum of Denmark, Queensland Museum (Australia).

During a career spanning over 42 years she collaborated with famous scholars in the field of zoology: Prof. Dr. Angelica Brandt (Hamburg, Germany), Prof. Dr. Johann Wolfgang Wägele (Bonn, Germany), Prof. Dr. Jörundur Svavarsson (Reykjavik, Iceland), Prof. Dr. Robert Y. George (Wilmington, North Carolina, USA).

In 1982, following a recommendation of Prof. Mihai Băcescu, she was awarded a fellowship by the Development Committee of the Oceanographic Institute of Paris, which allowed her to perform research in the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Oceanographic Institute of Paris, the Central Library of the National Museum of Natural History Paris and the Marine Research Station Endoume in Marseille. During this fellowship, she studied the Anthuroidean Isopods collections in Monaco and brought back to Bucharest a huge bibliographic database on Crustacea.

In 1993, she worked for three months as “Maître de Conférences” in the National Museum of Natural History from Paris, the Arthropods-Crustaceans Department, where she studied the Anthuroideans from New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands; 13 species, of which 4 new species were identified and published. During her staying in Paris she met Marco Tavares, a Brazilian scientist, and together they planned a future collaboration between the “Grigore Antipa” Museum and the Santa Ursula University in Rio de Janeiro, which led in 1994 to a common Romanian-Brazilian expedition in the Amazonian basin.

In 1995, Dr. Ileana Negoescu was an invited researcher in the Institute for Polar Ecology in Kiel, Germany where she worked with Dr. Angelika Brandt on a collection of arctic Anthuroideans Isopods. On this occasion a rich polar invertebrates collection was donated to the “Grigore Antipa” Museum.

In 1996, she was awarded a fellowship within the NATO Science Fellowships Programme in the Institute of Biology of the University of Reykjavik, Island, where she studied, together with Prof. Dr. Jörundur Svavarsson, a collection of Anthuroideans from the Northern Atlantic Ocean and from the Arctic Ocean, publishing a paper in the *Sarsia* Journal. The host supervisors evaluated her activity as being “exceptional”. She was also donated marine invertebrate material from the Greenland Sea, from the Island Sea, the Northern Atlantic Ocean and from the Arctic Ocean, to be included in the collections of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum in Bucharest (approx. 116 species, 30 families, 551 specimens).

In 2000, she received a new invitation from Prof. Angelika Brandt to work as an invited researcher in the Zoological Institute, Zoological Museum of Hamburg with a fellowship awarded by the German Science Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Here she revised the Anthuroidean Isopods collection of the museum, but also studied new material from Papua New Guinea originating from the Queensland Museum (Australia). The results were published in *Mitteilungen aus dem Hamburgischen Zoologischen Museum und Institut*.

Dr. Ileana Negoescu was and/or still is an active member in five international scientific societies: CIESM (Commission Internationale pour l’Exploration Scientifique

de la Mer Méditerranée, Monaco) – from 1976 to 1997; GEREC (Groupe d'Etudes et de Reflexion sur l'Evolution des Crustacés, Paris) – from 1980 to 1997; TCS (The Crustacean Society, Washington, D.C.) – from 1980 to date; Societé de Biospéologie (Moulis, France) – from 1991 to 1998; Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik (GfBS) (Germany) – from 2003 to 2006.

Three newly described crustacean species were named after Dr. Ileana Negoescu: *Chandraniscus negoescuae* (Asellota, Isopoda) described by Prof. Dr. Robert Y. George (North Carolina, USA) in [Deep-sea asellote isopods (Crustacea, Eumalacostraca) of the north-west Atlantic: the family Haploniscidae]. *Journal of Natural History*, 10 February 2004, 38: 337–373. (pp.348 – 351, fig 7); *Apsseudomorpha negoescuae* (Tanaidacea) described by Dr. Modest Guțu in *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa”*, 50: pp 65–70, figs 9, 10; *Styloptocuma negoescuae* (Cumacea) described by Dr. Iorgu Petrescu in *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa”*, 50: pp. 100–103, figs. 7, 8.

During her research career in the "Grigore Antipa" Museum she enriched the type collection with 286 Anthuroidean specimens (22 holotypes, 9 allotypes, 257 paratypes). In 1975, she started to organize the Isopods Collection, both terrestrial and marine, from Romania and the World Ocean. The material was obtained either from donations or collected personally. To date, the collection encompasses a number of 11.246 specimens of different Isopod suborders (Anthuroidea, Asellota, Oniscidea, Valvifera, Flabellifera), with 2009 Anthuroidean specimens from over 156 species.

As a museum specialist, Dr. Ileana Negoescu was implicated in numerous activities involving the general public; along the years she provided guided tours in Romanian, English and French for regular visitors, guest scientists, foreign guests, official delegations; she delivered 57 popular science conferences or organized contests like "Know and win", very popular among school children in the 80's.

The public exhibition of the Museum offered Dr. Ileana Negoescu the opportunity to express her artistic talent and skills. In 1983, she designed, together with Dr. Dumitru Murariu, the info panel "Animal Kingdom Phylogeny". In 2000, she was involved, along Dr. Nicolae Gâldean, in the re-organizing of the Invertebrate section of the exhibition. She re-organized the display of the "Chelicerata – Merostomata, Arachnida, Pycnogonida" and designed two new displays, "Hydrothermal sources – abyssal geysers" and "Invertebrates: giants and dwarfs". In 2002, together with Dr. Alexandru Iftime, she introduced a new display in the fish exhibition section, "The 2002 specimen of the year – *Romanichthys valsanicola*". In 2006, she curated the temporary exhibition of antique books from the museum collection "Science and Art: natural history illustrations in 17–19 century books".

In 1979, dr. Ileana Negoescu began the re-organization of the photography collection of the Museum. She was invited to numerous TV and radio shows and/or delivered newspapers interviews. She collaborated to the BBC Schools' Programmes show "Seeing through science", the episode "Cave the time forgot". Between 1982 and 1991 she published in the museum journal yearly reports of the scientific and/or cultural activities of the Museum.

Dr. Ileana Negoescu was also very active as an editor, working in various positions in the editorial staff of *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa”* from 1979 to the present. She was directly involved in editing over 20 issues of the journal with over 1500 articles. Apointed Editor in-Chief she retired from this position in 2009, but continues to work in the editorial board. Altogether, she dedicated 37 years of her life to the *Travaux*.

Always a young and artist spirit, Dr. Ileana Negoescu received in 2002 the honorary price “Morpho 2002” for her scientific drawings which were regarded as pure work of art.

She spent 42 out of 70 years of her life in the Grigore Antipa Museum, her second house and family. Besides being a successful taxonomist, Dr. Ileana Negoescu is a very warm hearted person, a dear friend who inspired many of her museum colleagues.

The whole team of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum is happy to congratulate Dr. Ileana Negoescu on her 70th anniversary and wishes her a healthy and long life.

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NEW TAXA DESCRIBED BY DR. ILEANA NEGOESCU

Family ANTHELURIDAE

1. *Ananthura antipai* Negoescu, 2005

Family ANTHURIDAE

2. *Amakusanthura botosaneanui* Negoescu, 2004
3. *Apanthura forceps* Negoescu & Brandt, 2001
4. *Apanthura indonesiensis* Negoescu, 1997
5. *Apanthura libyana* Negoescu, 1980
6. *Apanthura monodi* Negoescu & Brandt, 2001
7. *Apanthura motasi* Negoescu, 1980
8. *Apanthura pariensis* Negoescu, 1997
9. *Caenanthura indica* Negoescu, 1980
10. *Cyathura (Cyathura) cubana* Negoescu, 1979
11. *Cyathura (Cyathura) francispori* Negoescu, 1981
12. *Cyathura (Stygocyathura) orghidani* Negoescu, 1983
13. *Exanthura adinae* Negoescu, 1980
14. *Haliophasma mjoelniri* Negoescu & Svavarsson, 1997
15. *Haliophasma profunda* Negoescu, 1994

***Indonesanthura* Negoescu, 1997**

16. *Indonesanthura gutui* Negoescu, 1997
17. *Mesanthura adrianae* Negoescu, 1999
18. *Pendanthura anophthalma* Negoescu, 1994
19. *Pilosanthura calcaris* Negoescu, 2002
20. *Quantanthura caledonensis* Negoescu, 1994
21. *Quantanthura tyri* Negoescu & Svavarsson, 1997

Family HYSSURIDAE

22. *Kupellonura caudoserrata* Negoescu, 1994
23. *Kupellonura cryosi* Negoescu, 2006
24. *Kupellonura racovitzai* George & Negoescu, 1985
25. *Ocsanthura bacescui* George & Negoescu, 1982
26. *Xenanthura acuticauda* George & Negoescu, 1985

27. *Xenanthura bacescui* Negoescu, 1979**Family LEPTANTHURIDAE**

28. *Accalathura singularia* Negoescu, 1994
 29. *Aenigmathura lifouensis* Negoescu, 1994
 30. *Bulloanthura furcillata* Negoescu, 1994
 31. *Bulloanthura kensleyi* Negoescu, 2005
 32. *Leptanthura baliensis* Negoescu, 1992
 33. *Leptanthura chardyi* Negoescu, 1992
 34. *Leptanthura communis* Negoescu, 2007
 35. *Leptanthura geocostarioi* Negoescu, 1991
 36. *Leptanthura monnioti* Negoescu, 1994
 37. *Leptanthura muelleri* Negoescu, 1980
 38. *Leptanthura segonzaci* Negoescu, 1994
 39. *Leptanthura vitilevui* Negoescu, 1999
 40. *Leptanthura thalassae* Negoescu, 1980
 41. *Leptanthura victori* Negoescu, 1985

Family PARANTHURIDAE

42. *Paranthura brucei* Negoescu, 1999
 43. *Paranthura bunakenensis* Negoescu, 1997
 44. *Paranthura setigera* Negoescu, 1997

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1976

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1977

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