

In memoriam

Professor Katarina Borojević, PhD
(1928-2018)

(Source: <http://www.borojevic.net/katarina-biography/>)



Professor Katarina Borojević (maiden name Popović) was a full professor of Genetics and one of the founders of Genetics laboratory at the Department of Biology and Ecology, the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad.

Katarina Borojević was born in Senta in 1928. She finished high school in Osijek and in 1952 graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the University of Zagreb, where she also completed specialization in Genetics and Plant Breeding. In 1957 she took a graduate course in Genetics at Cornell University in the USA. She received a PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the University of Zagreb in 1962. Her PhD thesis was titled “Genetic changes induced by radioactive irradiation in the *Triticum* species”.

From 1952 to 1956 she worked as an agronomist in the company Poljoopskrba in Zagreb and in the Agricultural Seed Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture in Croatia. In 1957 she moved to Novi Sad with her husband Slavko Borojević and started to work at the Faculty of Agriculture as a teaching assistant. At the same faculty she was elected an assistant professor in 1963 and an associate professor in 1970. She became a full professor of Genetics at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad in 1975. Prof. Katarina Borojević taught the following undergraduate courses: Genetics and Plant Breeding (at the Faculty of Agriculture in Novi Sad), General Genetics (at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad) and Plant Selection Fundamentals (at the Faculty of Agriculture in Vinkovci). She also taught several graduate level courses, such as Quantitative Genetics (at the Faculty of Agriculture in Novi Sad), Human Genetics (at the Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad) and Mutation Genetics (at the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb). Katarina Borojević and her husband Slavko Borojević, an academician, have been considered the founders of modern genetics at the University of Novi Sad.

Katarina Borojević was a visiting professor at the North Carolina University in 1965 and at UC Davis in 1979. She was also a visiting professor at universities in Israel and the Netherlands.

Prof. Borojević was the principal investigator of 10 national and international projects. She published more than 200 research papers and reports presented at national and international conferences. Her research results contributed to the investigation of induced mutations in wheat. She also studied the effect of various types of radiation on mutations

in wheat populations and monitored mutation inheritance in 20 generations. She created a number of wheat mutant lines resistant to diseases with high protein content and low stalks.

Prof. Borojević created four wheat varieties, coauthored the university textbook “Genetics”, was the author of the university textbook “Genes and Population” and one of the authors of “Manual on Mutation Breeding” published by FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She also created several course notes in various fields of genetics.

She was an advisor for 180 bachelor’s theses, 6 specialization papers, 11 master’s and 5 PhD theses.

As one of the pioneers and leading plant mutation researchers, she was elected to be an expert in the Program for Induced Mutations in Plants of IAEA in Vienna (1966-1990), was the president of the EUCARPIA Plant Polyploidy and Mutation Research Group of the European Plant Breeding Association (1972-1974) and a councilor to the European Environmental Mutagen and Genomics Society (1982-1984). She was also the president of Vojvodina Association of Geneticists and Plant Breeders (1978/1980).

Prof. Borojević was the head of the Institute of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, the University of Novi Sad in the period 1988-1990.

During her career Prof. Borojević was awarded a number of prizes and honors: the University of Zagreb Award for the Best Student Paper, the Award of the Croatian Agricultural Branch of Hybrid Seed Corn in 1956, the October Award of the City of Novi Sad in 1961 for enhancing wheat production (the team award), the Award of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for new wheat sorts in 1964 (the team award), the October Award of the City of Novi Sad in 1971 for the textbook “Genetics” (shared the award with her husband prof. Slavko Borojević) and the 7 July Prize of Serbia in 1986.

Prof. Katarina Borojević retired in 1992. For the last ten years she lived in Boston, the USA, where she passed away on 17 October 2018.

She was a highly esteemed professor, a renowned researcher and a devoted wife and mother.

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