

In memoriam: Maria F. Makarevych, Dr. Sc., Professor
(December 4, 1906 – February 24, 1989)



In December 2006 Ukrainian lichenologists celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the birth of the famous Ukrainian botanist, prof. Maria F. Makarevych ('Makarevich' in the Russian transliteration).

Maria F. Makarevych was born in Moshny village in the Cherkassy district of Cherkassy oblast (central part of the Ukraine) on the 4th of December 1906 into a family of a physician. She completed her secondary education in Cherkassy and subsequently went to Kiev to study biology at Kiev University (at that time, the Kiev Institute of People's Education).

From 1938 she specialized in lichenology as a postgraduate student under the supervision of prof. A. M. Oxner. In 1946 she received her Ph. D. for the dissertation "Lichens of the Eastern Carpathians" and in 1964 she defended her

doctoral thesis "Analysis of lichen flora of the Ukrainian Carpathians" at the Botanical Institute of Russian Academy of Science in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg).

For almost a half of century (between 1936–1982) Maria Makarevych was associated with the M. H. Kholodny Institute of Botany of National Academy of Science of Ukraine. The major part of her working career (1940–1982) was devoted to the study of the lichen flora of the Carpathian region. She retired as a senior researcher in the M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany in 1982.

Maria was an excellent all-round botanist best known for her two books. Her monograph "Analysis of lichen flora of the Ukrainian Carpathians" (Makarevych, 1963) became the standard for the geographic analysis of regional

lichen floras. It played a particularly important role in disseminating the principles of geographic analysis of regional lichen floras in the Russian speaking countries of the former Soviet Union, principles first proposed by A. Oxner.** Furthermore, she (Makarevych, 1971a) actively encouraged the use of correct terminology for geographical elements as well as validating the segregation of such geographical groups as multiregional, Atlantic etc., together with the Estonian lichenologist prof. H. Trass. Their work established the methodology for the geographic analysis of regional lichen floras throughout the Eurasian continent.

Makarevych became known internationally following the publications of "Flora" (in Oxner, 1956) and "Handbook" (Makarevich, 1971b, 1977) as well as "Atlas of geographic distribution of lichens of Ukrainian Carpathians" (Makarevich et al., 1982). She was an excellent taxonomist who prepared treatments of such difficult genera as *Lecanora*, *Lecania*, *Opegrapha* etc. and described a number of new taxa, e.g. *Acrocordia bukowinensis*, *Lecanora nemoralis*, *L. multispora*, *Melaspilea oxneri*, *M. sudzuhensis* and *M. zerovii*. In addition to those mentioned above, Maria Makarevych published more than 70 scientific papers on lichens of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Far East.

The Ph. D. theses of Navrotskaya (1984) and Kudratov (1979), investigating lichens of different regions, were successfully defended by the students supervised by Maria Makarevych.

The recent edition of the checklist of lichen-forming, lichenicolous and allied fungi of the Eastern Carpathians (Kondratyuk et al., 2003) was dedicated to the memory of Maria Makarevych.

Maria enjoyed life outside of botany, particularly the literature, art and history of her mother country. Together with her husband, the well known phycologist, hydrobiologist, founder and first director of Institute of Hydrobiology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine for many years, academician O. V. Topachevsky, they raised two sons: one of them, professor Vadim O. Topachevsky is a famous paleontologist, corresponding member of National Academy of Sciences, and the second, Andriy O. Topachevsky, is a well known journalist and film director.

We remember her as a scientist, as a colleague always ready to help, as an advocate for lichens, and as a very kind person.

**Unfortunately Oxner's doctoral thesis "Analysis and history of Soviet Arctic lichen flora origin", which was defended in 1942, was never published. Detail description of his principles of geographical analysis as well as descriptions of geographic elements and lists of lichen species in each geographical group was published by Makarevych for the Ukrainian Carpathians. It included 860 new lichen records.

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Sergey Ya. Kondratyuk

M. H. Kholodny Institute of Botany, Tereshchenkivska str.
2, 01601 Kyiv-MSP-1, Ukraine