

IONEL GRIGORIE TABACARU IN HIS 90'S



Ionel Grigorie Gr. Tabacaru was born on 12 September 1932 in Cernăuți (present day Chernivtsi, Ukraine). His father, Grigorie A. Tabacaru was an ophthalmologist and the chief medic of Cernăuți while his mother, Eliza Manug Tabacaru had musical studies and was active in the Ciprian Porumbescu (Suceava) and Armonia (Cernăuți) societies. Ionel Tabacaru had a sole brother, Dimitrie Tabacaru, professor at the George Enescu Conservatoire and director of the Jassy Opera.

He attended the primary school in Cernăuți and Suceava; he began high-school in Cernăuți (“Aron Pumnul” College) and continued in Bucharest at “Mihai Viteazul” National College. Between 1951 and 1955, he followed the courses of the Faculty of Biology within the University of Bucharest. Despite his childhood passion for botanics, he was attracted towards Zoology by Professor Radu Codreanu. From his second year within the faculty (1952), he entered the Hydrobiology Student Chapter and benefited from the continuous guidance of Profesor Traian Orghidan.

After graduating the faculty (1955) he was assigned at the request of Professor Mircea Ienișteea as a main junior assistant at the Sinaia Zoological Station

of the Faculty of Biology from Bucharest but in June 1956 through the reorganization of the Institute of Speleology he was transferred to this Institute. Within the Institute of Speleology, he was successively promoted main researcher III (1968), main researcher II (1990) and main researcher I (1993), retiring in 2005.

Ionel Tabacaru specialized at the beginning on the study of Insects with aquatic larvae (Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera) and, in collaboration with Professor Dr. Constantin Bogoescu or as sole author, he published 10 papers concerning these insect groups. On the suggestion of Professor Orghidan, he began subsequently the study of arthropods with cavernicolous representatives: Isopoda Oniscidea, Diplopoda and Symphyla.

In 1980, based on a synthesis of his studies on the systematics and the zoogeography of Diplopoda, he defended, under the supervision of Professor Dr. Margareta Dumitrescu, his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Taxonomic and Zoogeographic studies on Cavernicolous and Endogeous Diplopoda from South-Eastern-Europe and Middle East".

Ionel Tabacaru was especially interested by Taxonomy: he published over 100 papers, most concerning taxonomical problems; he described 53 species new for the science and established 13 new genera, the most remarkable being the troglobitic isopod genera *Biharoniscus* Tabacaru, 1963, *Thaumatonicellus* Tabacaru, 1973, *Banatoniscus* Tabacaru, 1991 and the troglobitic diplopod genera *Dacosoma* Tabacaru, 1967, *Lamellothyphlus* Tabacaru, 1976, *Banatodesmus* Tabacaru, 1980, *Banatoiulus* Tabacaru, 1985.

Besides his studies on Systematics and Zoogeography, Ionel Tabacaru studied the postembryonic development in Diplopods (*Trachysphaera*, *Orobainosoma*), discovered and described the syncoxal and postgonopodial glands in Diplopoda Oniscomorpha (in collaboration with Dr. Lisianne Juberthie-Jupeau), described the glandular-piliferous organs in Oniscidea, studied the masticatory stomach in Cirolanidae, at *Calabozoa* (in collaboration with D. Platvoet) and Oniscidea (in collaboration with Dr. A. Giurginca).

Within the tradition of Emil Racovița's school, he had a propensity for evolutionary phylogenetics and performed cladistic analyses at various Crustacean groups (in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Dan L. Danielopol).

Ionel Tabacaru benefited from several internships in different countries: Germany 1962 (Berlin – Zoologisches Museum, in collaboration with Professor Dr. H.-E. Gruner), 1967/1968 (München – Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates, Humboldt Research Fellowship), France 1966/1967 (Moulis – Laboratoire Souterrain – CNRS scholarship), Spain 1972 (expedition in the Balearic Islands), Austria 1991, 1994, 1998, 2001 (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien and Institut für Limnologie Mondsee – in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Dan L. Danielopol from the University of Vienna).

In January 1964, following the decision of the Romanian Academy, he became editorial secretary and then (in 1996), editor-in-chief of the *Travaux de l'Institut de Spéologie „Emile Racovitza”*. Also, he was an editorial secretary for *Livre du centenaire Émile G. Racovitza* and *Livre du cinquantaire de l'Institut de Spéologie Émile Racovitza*.

In 1990, the Higher Commission of the Ministry of Education appointed him a doctoral supervisor, and additionally of the Special Commission of the Romanian Academy, certified in 1994 and 2000. He supervised 9 Ph. D. theses: 3 through the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology and 6 through the Romanian Academy, “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology.

Ionel Tabacaru was project manager in contracts granted by the Volkswagen Foundation (1996–1997) and by the Romanian Academy (1995, 1998, 2000, 2001–2002, 2003–2004, 2005).

Ionel Tabacaru participated (personally or with papers) at international symposia: the 4th (Ljubljana, 1965) and 5th (Stuttgart, 1969) Speleology Congress; the 1st (Paris, 1968) and 9th (Paris, 1993) Myriapodology Congress; the 4th Congress on Crustacea (Amsterdam, 1998); the 11th (Florence, 1994), 16th (Verona, 2002) and 18th (Cluj-Napoca, 2006) Biospeleology Symposium; the 5th (Iraklion, 2001) Symposium on the Biology of Terrestrial Isopoda.

He is an honorary member of the International Society for Subterranean Biology, member of the International Society of Myriapodology (CIM) since its establishment (1968), member of the Humboldt Club of Romania since its establishment (1990); he was also vice-president of the Romanian Society of Systematic Zoology and a member of Groupe d'Études et de Réflexion sur l'Évolution des Crustacés, Paris (GEREC).

For his paper *Dezvoltarea postembrionară la specii cavernicole de Gervaisia (Diplopoda, Gervaisiidae) – Postembryonic development of cavernicolous species of Gervaisia (Diplopoda, Gervaisiidae)* – he received in 1965 the “Emil Racoviță” Award of the Romanian Academy.

During our lifetime, some people have influenced our careers or shaped our personalities through their advice, example of style and professional conduct.

Thank you Dr. Tabacaru (our dear Tonel) for your advice, example of conduct and cheerful presence that helped us see what is important in our professional career and in life!



Dr. Ionel Tabacaru (center) together with his wife (right) and Prof. Patrick De Deckker (left) in Aula Magna of the Romanian Academy (October, 2017)

NEW TAXA DESCRIBED BY I.G. TABACARU UP TO PRESENT

Two subfamilies and a tribe:

1. *Thaumatoniscellinae* Tabacaru, 1973 (Isopoda, Oniscidea)
2. *Bucovinosominae* Tabacaru, 1978 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
3. *Venezuelodesmini* Tabacaru, 1993 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)

13 genera:

4. *Biharoniscus* Tabacaru, 1963 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
5. *Dacosoma* Tabacaru, 1967 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
6. *Thaumatoniscellus* Tabacaru, 1973 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
7. *Lamellothyphlus* Tabacaru, 1976 (Diplopoda, Julida)
8. *Bucovinosoma* Tabacaru, 1978 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
9. *Banatodesmus* Tabacaru, 1980 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
10. *Banatoiulus* Tabacaru, 1985 (Diplopoda, Julida)
11. *Banatoniscus* Tabacaru, 1991 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
12. *Venezuelodesmus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
13. *Rodopioniscus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
14. *Strouhaloniscellus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
15. *Vandeloniscellus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
16. *Nippononethes* Tabacaru, 1996 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)

54 species and subspecies:

17. *Baetis gracilis* Bogoescu et Tabacaru, 1957 (Insecta, Ephemeroptera)
18. *Gervaisia orghidani* Tabacaru, 1958 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)
19. *Polydesmus oltenicus* Negrea et Tabacaru, 1958 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
20. *Polydesmus dumitrescui* Negrea et Tabacaru, 1958 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
21. *Polydesmus microcomplanatus* Negrea et Tabacaru, 1958 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
22. *Gervaisia racovitzai* Tabacaru, 1960 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)
23. *Gervaisia spelaea* Tabacaru, 1960 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)
24. *Gervaisia dobrogica* Tabacaru, 1960 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)
25. *Leuctra hirsuta* Bogoescu et Tabacaru, 1960 (Insecta, Plecoptera)
26. *Polydesmus dadayanus* Tabacaru et Negrea, 1961 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
27. *Polydesmus mediterraneus valachicus* Tabacaru et Negrea, 1961 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
28. *Biharoniscus racovitzai* Tabacaru, 1963 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
29. *Orobainosoma hungaricum orientale* Tabacaru, 1965 (Diplopoda, Crspedosomida)
30. *Centroptilum dacicum* Bogoescu et Tabacaru, 1966 (Insecta, Ephemeroptera)
31. *Apfelbeckiella dobrogica* Tabacaru, 1966 (Diplopoda, Julida)
32. *Dacosoma motasi* Tabacaru, 1967 (Diplopoda, Crapedosomida)
33. *Bulgarosoma ocellatum* Tabacaru, 1967 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
34. *Bulgarosoma meridionale* Tabacaru, 1967 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
35. *Scutigera carpatica* Juberthie-Jupeau et Tabacaru, 1968 (Symphylla)
36. *Scutigera orghidani* Juberthie-Jupeau et Tabacaru, 1968 (Symphylla)
37. *Haplophthalmus tismanicus* Tabacaru, 1970 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
38. *Buddelundiella serbani* Tabacaru, 1971 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
39. *Isoperla illyrica* Tabacaru, 1971 (Insecta, Plecoptera)
40. *Hyloniscus flammuloides* Tabacaru, 1972 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
41. *Hyloniscus dacicus* Tabacaru, 1972 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
42. *Trichoniscus raichevi* Andreev et Tabacaru, 1972 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
43. *Thaumatiscellus orghidani* Tabacaru, 1973 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
44. *Biharoniscus fericeus* Tabacaru, 1973 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
45. *Trichoniscus carpaticus* Tabacaru, 1974 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
46. *Trichoniscus dragani* Tabacaru, 1974 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
47. *Napocodesmus florentzae* Tabacaru, 1975 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
48. *Lamellotyphlus mehedintzensis* Tabacaru, 1976 (Diplopoda, Julida)
49. *Bucovinosoma capusei* Tabacaru, 1978 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida)
50. *Geopachyiulus negreai* Tabacaru, 1978 (Diplopoda, Julida)
51. *Banatodesmus jeanneli* Tabacaru, 1980 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
52. *Graphisternum bordoni* Tabacaru, 1981 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
53. *Banatoiulus troglobius* Tabacaru, 1985 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
54. *Polydesmus costobocensis* Tabacaru, 1984 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
55. *Trachysphaera jonescui isvernae* Tabacaru, 1989 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)
56. *Trachysphaera jonescui tismanae* Tabacaru, 1989 (Diplopoda, Glomerida)

57. *Trachelipus troglobius* Tabacaru et Boghean, 1989 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
58. *Banatoniscus karbani* Tabacaru, 1991 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
59. *Typhoiulus motasi* Tabacaru et Gava, 1992 (Diplopoda, Julida)
60. *Caucasonethes vandeli* Tabacaru, 1993 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
61. *Venezuelodesmus orghidani* Tabacaru, 1993 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
62. *Venezuelodesmus decui* Tabacaru, 1993 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
63. *Venezuelodesmus bordoni* Tabacaru, 1993 (Diplopoda Polydesmida)
64. *Trichoniscus racovitzai* Tabacaru, 1994 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
65. *Libanaphe adonis galilaensis* Tabacaru, 1995 (Diplopoda, Polydesmida)
66. *Trichoniscus vandeli* Tabacaru, 1996 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
67. *Trichoniscus dancaui* Tabacaru, 1996 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
68. *Trichoniscus tuberculatus* Tabacaru, 1996 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
69. *Kithironiscus dobrogicus* Tabacaru et Giurginca, 2003 (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)
70. *Bulgardicus bucarestensis* Tabacaru et Giurginca, 2005 (Diplopoda)

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