

IN MEMORIAM PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER I DR. BASARAB-VICTOR DRIGA (1941-2020)



Unexpectedly and too early, on October 10 of this year, our colleague and friend, **Principal Researcher I Basarab-Victor Driga** from the **Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy**, left us. The entire geographical community in Romania learned with sadness about the loss of a special man, a valuable professional, an authentic specialist in **hydrogeography**. Above all, he was a man of noble character and an extremely warm, generous and sensitive soul, a model of devotion and devotion to those around him.

Dr. Basarab-Victor Driga, was born on June 22, 1941 on the shores of the Black Sea, in the city of Constanta, being predestined to study water resources.

After graduating from **St. Sava Lyceum - Bucharest**, between 1959 and 1964 he attended the **Faculty of Geology-Geography, Geography Department, University of Bucharest**. From 1964, by governmental assignment, he was assigned to the **Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Physical Geography Department**, where he carried out his activity until 2011, passing successively through all research stages, from trainee researcher, researcher, principal researcher, III, II, I, also having various responsibilities as head of team, section, member of the Scientific Council, member of the Editorial Board of the Geographical Journal, etc.

He enrolled for a doctorate in 1974, in the **Institute of Geography** under the leadership of **academician Vintilă Mihailescu**, taking the exams and papers provided in the activity plan, and preparing his doctoral dissertation under the guidance of **Prof. Dr. Petre Gâstescu**, supported in 1994 obtaining the title of doctor in **geography** and published in 2004 at the **Casa Cărții de Știință Publishing House** in Cluj-Napoca with the title *Danube Delta - water circulation system*.

The main field of activity focused on the problems of **hydrogeography** and, in particular, *physical limnology*, to which later, after 1975, were added aspects of mathematical modeling and systemic analysis in hydrology and later, the use of various GIS models in geographical research, environmental problems - risks and hazards. In addition to skills in modeling geographical / hydrological processes, there were internships in Cambridge (UK) and documentaries in Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, China, participation in a series of national and international symposia and congresses.

In the 70s, 80s and 90s of the twentieth century, in addition to the problems of researching several lakes in the Carpathians, Subcarpathians, the Romanian Plain and the Black Sea coast, a constant concern was the Danube Delta, which resulted in the doctoral thesis. Research in the Danube Delta has imposed complex approaches characteristic of aquatic ecosystems in a dynamic, fragile geographical area and storage of a very special biodiversity. These aspects are reflected in numerous articles but also in synthesis works on the **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve**, those of synthesis on Romania.

After 2000, through several projects of the Institute of Geography in collaboration with territorial authorities, **Dr. Basarab Driga**'s concerns were those on preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and anthropogenic hazards, especially those in the Tisa-Someș river basin.

The valorization of the researches materialized in contributions to the elaboration of reference works of the Institute of Geography, such as the *Geography of the Romanian Danube Valley*, *Atlas of RS Romania*, *Geography of Romania*, *Excess humidity in the northeastern Romanian Plain* and in the *Atlas of the Water Cadastre from Romania, Romania, Environment and RET network - Geographical Atlas etc.* to which are added over 150 articles, alone and in collaboration, published in specialized publications in the country and abroad.

Of course, the activity of **Dr. Basarab Driga** is not limited to those mentioned above. **Dr. Driga Basarab**, has participated in numerous research projects / topics of the Institute of Geography and with many central and regional research and design institutes, has participated with communications at numerous scientific events in the country and abroad.

Another aspect of the activity is the one referring to the guidance of many young researchers who came to the Institute of Geography, for mastering the mathematical-statistical methods in processing and interpreting geographical information, some of them working, later, competently in university and research centers.

We must also emphasize the participation in the doctoral-examination and reports commissions of the Institute of Geography, especially in those on hydrological topics.

Another aspect of **Dr. Basarab Driga**'s involvement was in the editorial committees of some papers and in the Geographic Magazine, new series.

As pointed out above, the longest period of research activity and as it results from the list of works, took place in the investigation of many lakes in Romania, from those in the Carpathian and sub-Carpathian space, through the Romanian Plain and insisting on the coastal and deltaic lakes. In fact, the bachelor's thesis was on the Taşaul estuary in the north of Constanţa.

Throughout the mentioned pilgrimage, there was a very close collaboration with the one he evokes. From field research to processing, interpreting and developing contracts / projects, communications and scientific articles, there has been a long and special collaboration.

It can be stated that **Dr. Basarab Driga** contributed a lot to the shaping of the **Romanian limnological school**, to the initiation of the **hydrogeographic research direction in the Institute of Geography**, being entitled to occupy one of the positions of vice president of the **Romanian Limnogeography Association**.

God rest him in peace!

**Prof.univ.dr.doc. Petre Gâştescu,
Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy**