Dear Professor Agachi, Dear colleagues, Dear students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank you very much for your kind words, the appreciations about my educational and scientific activities, also my achievements with the occasion of my 70th anniversary.

In the same way, I wish to thank for the Laudatio my colleague and friend Emeritus Professor Dr. Leonard Olaru, a renowned palynologist from Alexandru-Ioan Cuza University of Iași, for his kind considerations and appreciations regarding myself.

I thank my colleague Professor Dr. Ioan I. Bucur from Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca for successfully organizing, together with his young team of collaborators, two international Symposia of Romanian Paleontology.

Professor Bucur has worked together with me in the field of calcareous algae, we co-uthored several papers on fossil algae, some of them including descriptions of new species ranging from Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous of the Carpathians.

My colleague is now a highly appreciated expert in the scientific world of paleoalgology, micropaleontology and microfacies.

I also thank my younger colleague Associate Professor Mihai E. Popa from our Department of Geology and Paleontology, Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, University of Bucharest, for his words and presentation concerning my activities. I always considered him as my disciple. He has been very active in organizing, up to now, two international meetings on Paleozic and Mesozic floras, being also deeply involved in significant projects dealing with Paleobotany, Palynology and Environmental Sciences.

Before I finish my reply to the presentations of my colleagues, I want to recall some important steps that have influenced my educational and scientific career.

During my activity spanning over 47 years, I was „lucky” in meeting genuine, great personalities in my field of research. These personalities had directly influenced me in discovering my path in science, finding directions and helping to apply new methods of investigations in the field of Paleontology and Sedimentary Geology. With this occasion, here and now, I present my homage and my gratitude to all of them. My first step dates back to 1963, as a beginner in the field of study on limestones of the Romanian Carpathians, together and under the supervision of my PhD co-ordinator, Academician Professor Miltiade Filipescu (Photo 1), at that time Chief of the Chair of Paleontology and Stratigraphy, Vice-Rector of the University of Bucharest and also Director of the Geological Institute of Romania.

Professor Filipescu introduced me to the study of marine calcareous microplankton (calpionellids and nannoplankton, genus Nannoconus), giving me the opportunity to meet Professor Jean Cuvillier (Photo 2) and to obtain his paper published in 1951 Étude et utilisation rationelle de microfacies, in Revue de Micropaléontologie, 4/1, p.112-118, Paris.
He also introduced me to the work of Professor Michel Durand-Delga, father of genus *Crassicollaria* - a genus with many species, who also described the stratigraphic value of calpionellids biozones from the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary. Professor Filipescu acquainted me also to Professor Marcel Lemoine, a tectonician visiting the Geological Institute of Romania, in Bucharest. The last two were my tutors for becoming a member of the Société géologique de France, but only for 1969-1970, as at the time, I had no possibility to pay my dues to continue remaining a member of this professional organization.

The second important step forward in my scientific career was provided by a field trip organized in 1978, when crossing the Romanian Carpathians with a group of undergraduate students and geologists from Erlangen University (Germany) lead by Professor Erik Flügel (Photo 3) and his team including Professors Zeiss and Gross.

On this occasion I have met Professor Flügel, a remarkable personality and a high profile geologist, editor of famous scientific journals such as *Facies*, who also published two essential books on Microfacies and Limestones: *Mikrofazielle Untersuchungs- methoden von Kalken*, 1978, 454 p., Springer Verlag and *Microfacies of Carbonate Rocks*, 2004, 976 p., Springer Verlag. In *Facies* (Vol. 4, 1981), I have published a synthesis paper entitled *Mesozoic Dasycladaceae from Romania, distribution and biostratigraphical importance*, a paper launching me in the field of calcareous algae and microfacies. I am indebted to Professor Flügel for his confidential recommendation for obtaining a Humboldt scholarship in 1980; I acknowledge his support a lot, and I always remember meeting him, his family and his collaborators in Erlangen.

Starting with 1981, until today I was involved in many international projects dealing with Mesozoic carbonatic deposits, with emphasis on their micropaleontological content (Jurassic - Early Cretaceous algae, foraminifera, microproblematics). I was involved in such projects with Professor Hans Mensink and his collaborators, Professor Dorothee Mertmann and Dr. Eleonore Juber, from the Bochum University. I wish to recall the collaboration with Professor Jörg Trappe (Bonn University) regarding the Sinemurian algae of North-East Iberian Chain (Spain), a project finalized in 1986, the one with Professor Hans-Georg Herbig (Köln University), with whom I have published two papers on species of the *Halimeda* Group (2005, 2007) from the Paleogene of Central High Atlas (Morocco) and with Emeritus Professor Milan Misik, of Jan Comenius University (Bratislava) as well as with Dr. Jan Sotak, of the Slovak Academy. Together with the latter I have published *Non-marine calcareous Lower Cretaceous algae and Cyanobacteria from Czorsztyn Unit, Western Carpathians* (2001) and *Calcareous algae of the limestone pebbles from conglomerates of Western Carpathians* (2008).

Also, I have cooperated with Professor Musa Kazim Düzbastillar, of Izmir University, Professors Diakantoni, Fotini Pomoni and Evangelos Veiltzeios, of Athens University, as well as with Professor Hassan Soliman, of Assiut University, with whom I have published a paper in Micropaleontology, *Palaeogene calcareous algae of Egypt*, 2002, New York.
In USA during my Fulbright Scholar Award (1993-1994), I had the privilege to collaborate with Professor Stejepko Golubic from Boston University, a well-known personality in the field of Cyanobacteria and shallow marine microbialites. We published in 1996, also in collaboration with Professor Detlev K. Richter (Bochum) a paper entitled *Rivularia haematites, a case of Recent versus Fossil morphology, taxonomical considerations*. During my visit in North America, I have met two other personalities, Dr. L. Hillis-Colinvaux, owner of an impressive collection including Recent *Halimeda* of all reef-marine realms, and Professor Paul Colinvaux, a high profile ecologist and a tropical rainforest researcher. Together with Dr. L. Hillis-Colinvaux I have visited the Smithsonian Institution in Balboa, Panama, and we have collected numerous calcareous algae from reefs occurring along the Atlantic coast.

When visiting Washington DC in 2000, I have met two high profile researchers in algae and reef ecosystems, from the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Diane S. Littler and Mark M. Littler (Photo 4).

This encounter gave me the opportunity to gain two more scholarships at the Smithsonian, in 2002 and 2003. During my first scholarship there, I worked on the Harlan J. Johnson collection. This collection, donated by one of the greatest American paleoalgologists, includes thin sections obtained from various drillings in the Pacific islands. During my second scholarship I
worked in Florida, at Fort Pierce Station of the Smithsonian, on samples collected from Pliocene–Pleistocene limestones of the Key West Peninsula, publishing with the two Littlers two papers regarding the carbonatic facies and the role of the calcareous algae in reef ecosystems. During a visit to the University of Miami, I was introduced to Professor Robert G. Ginsburg (Photo 5), a great personality in the field of carbonate deposits, who offered me for study the cores of Clino and Unda drills, from the Bahamas carbonate platform.

The results of the study of these thin sections were published in 2007, in Analele Universității din București, Seria Geologie, Special Publication No.2, for which I received the Emil Pop Prize of the Society of Romanian Paleontologists. I wish to thank Professor Ginsburg for his hospitality and his trust in offering me the cores and the thin sections from these very important drillings.

In this context I wish to remind Professor Paul C. Silva (Photo 6), from the Berkeley University, a great personality in the difficult field of taxonomy and systematics.

I learned from him “the rule” and the special conditions for defining a new species or a new genus, in the field of Phytoecology and in that of Paleoaligology. Recently, in his work Historical Review of Attempts to Decrease Subjectivity in Species Identification, with Particular Regard to Algae, Protist vol.159 (2008), Prof. Silva recommends to reduce the subjectivity for correctly identifying or revising a taxon by a group of researchers. Such an analysis must be admitted only if it includes a correct revision of the original illustrations, to which he adds that, the genomic analysis is a very important tool, but its application should not be assumed to be free of subjectivity”. I wish to thank him for his suggestions and very useful comments for some of the papers in work, and especially for his honouring recommendations written for my funding applications; such “heavy” recommendations have increased my chances in the tough competition for research grants.

Another fruitful and long collaboration is the one with Professor Detlev K. Richter (Photo 7) from the Bochum University. This collaboration started after 1992 and it continues today, almost without interruption. I consider this collaboration as extremely fruitful, leading to the publication of more than 12 papers, together with him and with his collaborators, especially with his PhD students (Dr. Gielisch, Dr. Kazir, Dr. Kube, Dr. Radusch, Dr. Beck and Dr. Zuhl).

Photo 7 - Prof. Detlev K. Richter

Professor Richter was the leader of a group of graduate and undergraduate students from Bochum University who visited Romania during the summer of 1996, in a field trip through the Romanian Carpathians and Dobrogea. This fieldtrip that lasted 25 wonderful days was lead by a Romanian team consisting of myself, Associate Professor Mihai E. Popa and Geologist Ioan Coconu. I consider this scientific collaboration both a tribute and a friendly appreciation of Professor Richter, an important researcher in the fields of marine, brackish or freshwater carbonates and speleothemes.

I have also collaborated with a team from University of Leoben (Austria), represented by Professor H.J. Gawlick, and Dr. Felix Schlagintweit, resulted in the publication of two common research papers during a very fruitful and promising collaboration.

I am also grateful to Louis C. Bortz, exploration geologist with Pan American-Amoco in Denver between 1959-1986, currently an independent expert working with different companies. I owe him financial support for some of the research projects, for publishing of various papers such as Miocene to Holocene calcareous algae of the Caribbean area (2007), and for helping me becoming an Active Member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) from 1990 until today.

Also, I cooperated with many Romanian scientists: Professor Aurelia Bărăulescu, Professor Ioana Pâna, working with them under the leadership of Professor Theodor Neagu, member of the Romanian Academy, publishing together the monograph: Jurasicul și
Cretacicul din Dobrogea Centrală și de Sud - Paleontologie și Stratigrafie (1998), a work which took us more than 10 years of research on Jurassic and Cretaceous deposits from Central and South Dobrogea. This monograph was on high demand also abroad, in Germany, Italy or Poland, being considered an essential contribution to the understanding of the lithostratigraphy and especially of the biostratigraphy of these deposits. The study includes 54 plates illustrating the main fossil groups of these important units belonging to the Moesian Platform. A constant collaboration involved my younger colleagues from the Chair of Geology and Paleontology, with whom I have published research papers in the frame of various international (EU) and national (CNCSIS – NURC) research grants: Associate Professor Iulia Lazăr, Associate Professor Răzvan Damian, Associate Professor Mihai E. Popa, Associate Professor Marius Stoica and Associate Professor Zoltan Csíki.

I also would like to recall with sincere regrets the personalities of two high profile researchers and professors in the fields of Geology, Paleobotany and Palynology: the late Professor Răzvan Givulescu, Honorary member of the Romanian Academy, and the late Professor Justinian Petrescu from Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca. To them I address my homage, and I express my faith that they will never be forgotten by the young generations.

I wish to thank all the participants to this symposium, with the hope that we will meet again in similar meetings organized by the Society of Romanian Paleontologists; I also wish that Acta Palaeontologica Romaniae will survive any crisis.

I thank the organizers, and all fellow participants to this meeting, which was so well organized by our colleagues from Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania.

Finally, I will just add my motto: *I love limestones, calcareous algae and fossils.*

Cluj-Napoca, October 22, 2009.

**LUCRĂRI ȘTIINȚIFICE ȘI CĂRȚI ALE PROFESORULUI OVIDIU DRAGASTAN (SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND BOOKS)**

**1963 - 1970**


4. Saccocoma și *Globochaete alpina* în microfaciesul jursasicului superior din Bucegi și Banat (Saccocoma and Globochaete alpina in the Upper-Jurassic microfacies from Bucgei and Banat), Analele Universității București, Seria Geologie, nr. 2, 1964, p. 95-107, 5 pl., București.


8. A new Serpulid species in the Upper Jurassic of Romania, Palaeontology: the late Professor Justinian Petrescu, Acta Palaeontologia Romaniae, V. 7 (2011), a work which took us more than 10 years of research on Jurassic and Cretaceous deposits from Central and South Dobrogea. This monograph was on high demand also abroad, in Germany, Italy or Poland, being considered an essential contribution to the understanding of the lithostratigraphy and especially of the biostratigraphy of these deposits. The study includes 54 plates illustrating the main fossil groups of these important units belonging to the Moesian Platform. A constant collaboration involved my younger colleagues from the Chair of Geology and Paleontology, with whom I have published research papers in the frame of various international (EU) and national (CNCSIS – NURC) research grants: Associate Professor Iulia Lazăr, Associate Professor Răzvan Damian, Associate Professor Mihai E. Popa, Associate Professor Marius Stoica and Associate Professor Zoltan Csíki.

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Finally, I will just add my motto: *I love limestones, calcareous algae and fossils.*

Cluj-Napoca, October 22, 2009.

**I love limestones, calcareous algae and fossils.**

1971 - 1980
25. Considerați stratigrafice asupra faciesului carbonat recifal din zona Pui (Carpații Meridionali)-(Stratigraphic considerations upon the carbonate reef facies from the Pui zone (southern Carpathians - Romania), Dări de seamă ale ședințelor Inst. Geologic, p. 124-129, LVIII, 1972, 2 fig., 3 pl., București (in co-operation with Al. Stălă și I. Dumitră)
26. Cretacului inferior din Dobrogea de nord (The Lower Cretaceous from Northern Dobrogea - Romania), Studii și cercetări de geologie ale Acad. R.S. România, 17/1, p. 77-95, 1 fig., 4 pl., București (in co-operation with V. Muthac și A. Lăcătușu)
27. Asupra unor lene de Icacinoxylon Shilkina din oligocenul de la Telega (Prahova) (Upon some Icacinoxylon shilkina woods in the Oligocene from Telega (Prahova-Romania), Studii și cercetări de geologie ale Acad. R.S. România, 17/2, p. 445-451, 3 fig., 1972, București (in co-operation with J. Petrescu).
42. New species of the genus Diversocallis in the Jurassic and Cretaceous from Romania, Revue roumaine Géol.,
42. *Muniera grambasti* Bystricky în senonianul de la Cornițel (Bazinul Borod) (*Muniera grambasti* Bystricky in the Senonian from Cornițel (Borod Basin - Romania)), Dăi de seamă ale ședințelor Institut. Geol. și Geof., LXIV, p. 341-346, 2 pl., 1978, București.

43. Date noi privind biostratigrafia depozitelor barremian-albiene din partea central-estică a zonei Reșița-Moldova Nouă (Banat), obținute prin forajul de referință de la Șopotel Nou (New data concerning the biostratigraphy of the barremian-albian deposits from the central-eastern part of the Reșița-Moldova Nouă zone (Banat-Romania) - from the Șopotel Nou borehole), Dăi de seamă ale ședințelor Institut. Geol. și Geof., LXIV, p. 17-36, 2 fig., 2 tab., 20 pl., 1978, București (in co-operation with I. Bucur and I. Demeter).


1981 - 1990

50. Mesozoic Dasycladaceae from Romania, distribution and biostratigraphical importance. Facies, 4, p. 165-196, 1981, Erlangen,ISI, 1.106


52. Biostratigraphy of the Triassic formations in the east of the Pădurea Craiului Mountains (Romania), Dăi de seamă ale ședințelor Inst. Geol. și Geof., LVII, 4, p. 29-61, 1982, București (in co-operation with M. Diaconu și Elena Popa).


54. Practical potentialities of Palaeontology, 75 years Lab. of Paleontology, Special volume, Editor Neagu Th., p. 15-22, 1983, București.

55. Stratigraphia depozitelor neojurase și oecratice din Dogroba de Sud (Stratigraphy of the Neojurassic and Eocretaceous deposits from Southern Dogroba - Romania), St. cerc. geol., geof., 29, p. 80-87, 1984, București (in co-operation with Th. Neagu).


57. Lower Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous formations and Facies in the eastern area of the Moesian Platform (Southern Dogroba included) - Romania, Analele Univ. București Geologie, Géophysique et Géographie, LXIV, p. 341-346, 1985, București.


63. Some Dasiyclad from the Sinemurian from the North - Eastern Iberian Chain (Spain), Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 60, 3/4, p. 169-179, 1986, Stuttgart (in co-operation with G. Trappe), ISI 0.333.


1991 - 2000

82. Rhodophyta and Microproblematicae Algae of the Jurassic from the Carpathian area, Revista Espanola de Micropaleontologia, 23, 1, p. 5-26, 1991, Madrid.


90. Moesian Cretaceous Carbonate Platform (the Eastern Romanian Sector)and Data about Adjacent Black Sea offshore., Abstract, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Annual Convention, New Orleans, USA, 1993 (in co-operation with Muțu R, Șişman P. & Popescu Ștefan)


92. Typification of some fossil algae and megaflora from the Collection of Prof. Dr. Ovidiu Dragastan (University of Bucharest, Laboratory of Paleontology), Analele Univ. București, ser. Geologie, 1995, București.


97. Early Jurassic phytostratigraphy of the Holbav Formation, Getic Nappe, Brașov County. Studii și cercetări de geologie,
Academia Română, 1997 (in co-operation with M. Popa), București
98. Teaching and scientific activity of Prof. Dr. Doc. Theodor Neag, Corresponding Member of Romanian Academy, Acta Palaeontologica Româniae (Ed. Dragastan, O.), vol. 1, p. 21-27, 1997, Bucharest.
106. Late Jurassic oolites from the Acrocorinth (NE-Peloponnes) : Calcareous micro-algae as an exceptional paleoecologic indicator. Bochumer geol. u. geotechn. Arb., 53, p.149-172, 1999, Bochum (in co-operation with Prof. Dr. D. K. Richter, Germany).
2001 -
115. New calcareous algae (Bryopsidophyceae) from the Blid Formation ( Barremian-early Aptian) of the southern Brusturi Sector ( Apuseni Mts.) , and some new litho- and biostratigraphical data. O. Dragastan & Claudiu, Studia Universitatis, Babeș – Bolyai, Geologia, Special Issue, 1, 2002, 165-188, Cluj Napoca.
123. Silvanella corona Dragastan (Bryopsidophyceae, Family Pseudodotaceae) from late Jurassic of Carpathians carbonate platforms (Romania). O.Dragastan, Hidrobiologica, vol.13, no.1, 2003, Univ. Iztapalapa, Mexico (ISI). 0.333.


130. Halimeda misiki n.sp. , a new calcareous algae from the Late Jurassic of the Northern Calcareous Alps (Austria), NJ.Geol.Paläont., Abh., vol.28/2, p.171-182, 2008, Stuttgart (in co-operation with F. Schlagintweit and H.J.Gawlick, Univ.Leoben, Austria), ISI. 0.721.


135. Bauxite-bearing Formations in the Northern Apuseni Mts. Area (Romania) and the environmental impact of the mining activities. Carpathian Journal of Earth and Environmental Sciences- published online, 2009 and in Vol 4,No.2, p.5 - 24 (in co-operation with Răsvan Damian, Zoltan Csiki, Iuliana Lazăr & Mihai Marinescu), Baia Mare, ISI. 0.333.


