

Neriman Özhatay

## Professor Asuman Baytop (1920-2015)



Fig. 1. Asuman Baytop, in 2006 with her award (Photo by K.H.C. Başer).

and became director until her retirement in March 1987. After her retirement, she continued her taxonomic studies in ISTE, making numerous contributions to Flora of Turkey. She also wrote some genera and family treatments in the Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands such as the family *Solanaceae*, *Typhaceae* and the following genera of the family *Gramineae*: *Phalaris*, *Molinia*, *Arundo*, *Phragmites*, *Cortaderia*.

She published an impressive number of important books and papers, Prof. Asuman Baytop's biography and scientific activities together with list of her publication is given by daughter Prof. F. Günergün in Asuman Baytop Festschrift in Osmanlı Bilimi Araştırmaları (Studies in Ottoman Science) Cilt/Vol., XI (1-2) 2009-2010.

Professor A. Baytop passed away in İstanbul on 18 February 2015, ending a life which was devoted almost exclusively to Turkish flora and the history of Turkish botany.

She was born March 1920 in İstanbul. Initially she was educated at Sainte\_Pulchérie and Şişli Terakki Lisesi and then continued her education at İstanbul University, Faculty of Science, School of Pharmacy, 1943. She received her PhD 1949 on *Contributions a l'etude Pharmacognosique 4 especes alpine Achillea*, supervised by Professor H. Flück in Zürich. After returning to Turkey in 1949, she was appointed as assistant of the Department of Pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy in İstanbul University and continued her academic career in İÜ.

In 1964, she founded the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany in the Faculty of Pharmacy



Fig. 2. Asuman Baytop in the fieldtrip in 1954. Private collection A. Baytop.

As professor emeritus since 1987 she pursued her researches in the history of botany and published a book and more than 50 papers on the history of botany in Turkey.

Her botanical research started in the 1941 when she was still student and joined the excursion, organised by Prof. A. Heilbronn around İstanbul. Then she made several excursion and collected many specimens (about 6.000) in the hills around İstanbul, namely Aydos Mountain and Kayışdağ expanding to the flora of European Turkey from where

7470 plant specimens, collected by her are kept in ISTE (Herbarium of İstanbul University Faculty of Pharmacy). She contributed 84 new taxa to the flora of European Turkey, and was awarded with a medal of honor in 1978 at the Second International Symposium on the Problems of Balkan Flora and Vegetation.

Her first Anatolian excursion was to Uludağ with Prof. A. Heilbronn in 1943 followed by about 75 trips in Anatolia and mainly for medicinal and useful plant families specimens such as *Papaveraceae*, *Solanaceae*, *Poaceae* and *Apocynaceae*. Her Anatolian collection includes around 16,000 (including İstanbul collections) specimens kept in ISTE. Her original collection is housed in ISTE and counts 23.300 specimens. The Flora of Turkey (1965-2000) cites 1876 specimens collected by herself. She also contributed as author to P.H.Davis Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands. The volume 8 of this monumental Flora was dedicated to A. and T. Baytop in recognition of their valuable contribution for many years. She was essentially an outstanding classical taxonomist whose work was based on extensive field data, detailed herbarium studies and a deep knowledge of the literature.

Her floristic work and her services in founding and enriching the Herbarium ISTE was awarded with the Award of TUBİTAK in 1999.

She was also strong supporter of Flora Europaea and Regional adviser for Turkey in Atlas Florae Europea and Euro Med-Checklist projects.

During the years 1965-1989, she was a member and head of Editorial Board of the Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy of İstanbul University and many of her papers are published in this Journal. A. Baytop was an early member of the OPTIMA until 2004.

She supervised eight PhD doctorate theses and some of these students, like me, became her close colleagues. She was an excellent teacher and scientist. The memories of her academic efforts, her kindness and her deep scientific thinking will always survive with us.

#### **She described the following taxa :**

*Lycium anatolicum* A. Baytop & R. R. Mill  
*Nonea macrantha* (Riedl) A. Baytop  
*Nonea pulla* subsp. *scabrisquamata* A. Baytop  
*Roemeria carica* A. Baytop  
*Silene anatolica* Melzh. & A. Baytop  
*Gladiolus attilae* Kit Tan, B. Mathew & A. Baytop

#### **The following species are named in her honour:**

*Allium baytopiorum* Kollmann & N. Özhatay  
*Apera baytopiana* Dogan  
*Asphodeline baytopiae* Tuzlaci  
*Astracantha baytopiana* ( D. F. Chamb. & V. A. Matthews) Greuter & Burdet  
*Cirsium baytopiae* P. H. Davis & Parris  
*Colchicum baytopiorum* C. D. Brickell  
*Crocus asumaniae* B. Mathew & T. Baytop

*Crocus baytopiorum* B. Mathew  
*Fritillaria asumaniae* Wallis & N. Özhatay  
*Galium baytopianum* Ehrend. & Schönb.-Tem.  
*Gypsophila baytopiorum* Kit Tan  
*Rosa 'Asuman'* Kit Tan & Zielinski  
*Stachys baytopiorum* Kit Tan & Yildiz  
*Tripleurospermum baytopianum* E. Hossain

**A. Baytop collected the following new species, type specimens of them are kept in ISTE, E ve K .**

*Allium eldivanense* N. Özhatay (*Liliaceae*), A4 Çankırı, 18. VII. 1976  
*Allium sivasicum* N. Özhatay & Kollmann (*Liliaceae*), B6 Sivas, 22. VII. 1978  
*Asphodeline damascena* subsp. *gigantea* E. Tuzlacı (*Liliaceae*), C6 Gaziantep, 23. VI. 1977  
*Asphodeline damascena* subsp. *ovoidea* E. Tuzlacı (*Liliaceae*), C6 Maraş, 23. VI. 1977  
*Crocus speciosus* subsp. *ilgazensis* Mathew (*Iridaceae*), C4 Çankırı, 7. X. 1972  
*Gypsophila baytopiorum* Kit Tan (*Caryophyllaceae*), C9 Hakkâri, 22. V. 1981  
*Iris purpureobracteata* B. Mathew & T. Baytop (*Iridaceae*), C'2 Denizli, 10. VI. 1973  
*Stachys baytopiorum* Kit Tan & Yıldız (*Labiatae*), C8 Mardin, 7. VI. 1971

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