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Michael Zohary

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including his Ph.D. thesis as late as in 1954 (*Studien über die Moore Feuerlands*). In the meantime, he was an assistant to J. I. Liro, an eminent mycologist working on microfungi, plant pathology, and gall mites (Eriophyidae). During his later years he collected microfungi and bryophytes for the herbarium in Helsinki (H) and organized an extensive exchange so that his specimens are now found in numerous other herbaria. After visiting Argentina and Chile again in 1969–70 he published a paper, in Spanish (which he spoke well), on his mycological findings there. At the same time he continued his work on phanerogams, publishing on a collection of S.W. African plants, including new species of grasses, in the 1970's, but his work on Patagonian plants and flora of N.W. Finland were not completed. He worked in the Cryptogamic Herbarium of the Botanical Museum at the University of Helsinki from 1953 to 1968, being Head Curator from 1956 to 1967. In 1971 he was granted the honorary title of Professor. However, up to 1982 he worked daily in the herbarium, transmitting his wide knowledge to the younger colleagues. [T. Ahti, Department of Botany, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 44, SF-00170 Helsinki 17, Finland.]

*Michael Zohary*, Professor Emeritus of Botany at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, died on 15 April 1983, at the age of 85.

He became interested in the flora of Israel after immigrating from Europe in 1920. Ever since, the plants of this country remained the great passion of his life. In 1926 he joined the staff of the newly established Hebrew University and with A. Eig and Naomi Feinbrun established the first team of local botanists engaged in the study of the flora and vegetation of Israel and the neighbouring Middle Eastern countries.

He received his doctorate from the University of Prague in 1936 on a study of the antitelochoric phenomena in the distribution of plants in the "Flora Palaestina" region (published in 1937). His interest in biological phenomena continued throughout his life, as shown in papers on fruit dispersal and fruit evolution (in Leguminosae, Compositae, Cruciferae, and other families). His major interest and studies, however, henceforth shifted to the flora and vegetation of Israel and Jordan (the classical "Palaestina") and of the Middle East in general. He published several major monographs (*Pistacia*, *Tamarix*, *Trifolium*, and others) and summarized studies of the flora conducted by him for many years in the first two volumes of the "Flora Palaestina" (Pteridophyta and Dialeptetales, 1966 and 1972).

Throughout, Zohary's main interest was in the study of plant geography and the vegetation of Israel, the Middle East, and, during recent years, of the world as a whole. The results of his studies have become widely known through his "The Plant Life of Palestine" (1962) and "Geobotanical Foundations of the Middle East" (1973). A monumental work, in which he intended to revise basic concepts of the plant geography of the world, remains unfinished.

His expert knowledge and understanding of floras and vegetation of great parts of the world was based on extensive botanical excursions throughout the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Cyprus, Crete) as well as in other parts of the world (Mediterranean countries, South and West Africa, North and South America).

Michael Zohary will have a lasting impact on many aspects of botanical research of the Middle East. In Israel he is appreciated as the teacher of three generations of botanists. He was particularly stimulating on field trips to both amateurs and professionals. His special merits to the country at large are several books in Hebrew, including florulas of the native and cultivated plants, textbooks on general taxonomy, and on the geobotany of Israel.

Though Prof. Zohary retired officially in 1967, his work in the herbarium and in the field continued unabated, with uncompromising dedication, until a few weeks before his death.

"Plants of the Bible," his last book, which appeared in print shortly before his death (Cambridge University Press, 1982) is a fitting finale of his life's work. [Chaia Clara Heyn, Department of Botany, Hebrew University, 91904 Jerusalem, Israel.]