

ALEXANDRINA NEGREA
(23 AUGUST 1930–2 MAY 2011)
HER LIFE AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Dr. Alexandrina (Didina) NEGREA at 50 YEARS
(13 of December 1980) (by courtesy of. Dr. Ștefan Negrea)

Abstract: Special homage on the behalf of her biologist colleagues and those who knew the distinguished lady of the Romanian Biology – Dr. Alexandrina Negrea. She worked with competence and passion between 1953–2011 and published 100 scientific papers in malacology, ecology (biospeleology, hydrobiology etc.), ethology, biogeography, nature conservation and history of science fields (see attached List of her published papers).

Dr. Alexandrina Negrea was born at 23 of August 1930 and received her education in Piatra Neamț, Neamț Co. After the “Calistrat Hogaș” College (1941–1949) she studied biology, first (in 1949) at “Al.I. Cuza” University from Iassy and since 1950 she moved to University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, she graduated from in June 1953.

Alexandrina Negrea started her activities at the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History in 1950–1954 as a student in the Faculty of Biology – University of Bucharest and later (1953–1955) as a guide for visitors and as a preparator-entomologist since December 1953. She worked with Dr. Victoria Iuga

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Raica – the last wife of Professor Dr. Dimitrie Voinov – head of the Comparative Anatomy in Bucharest University. The young researcher Alexandrina Negrea was in charge with “Aristide Caradja” microlepidoptera collection, recently brought by prince himself from Grumăzești – Neamț, offered to the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History. Her evolution as a biologist was not simple, but she was a hardworker and never complained about life difficulties.

In 1954 Didina was transferred as a scientist to the Hydrology Commission of the Romanian Academy – a Division of the Marine Research Station founded by Grigore Antipa in Constanța. Her husband (Ștefan Negrea), just graduated in biology from the Faculty of Biology – Bucharest University –, occupied a position of research assistant in the same Marine Research Station. Two years, Didina worked in the Laboratory of Marine Benthos, while her husband organized the first Romanian Marine Plankton Laboratory. In 1959, together with Lucreția Elian, the Negrea family published their first observations on zooplankton distribution in Romanian sector of the Black Sea (see paper no. 1 in the attached List of publications).

In 1955 Alexandrina Negrea was transferred as a scientist to the Hyrobiological Research Station in Brăila, organized by Bucharest’s University and Ștefan Negrea became founder director. That station was for applied education of students from the Faculty of Biology and for Research programs on Danube flooding zone. In these programs were transferred and implied the above-mentioned two scientists from the Marine Research Station as well as Stelian Beldescu, specialised in chemistry. In only two years, they organized laboratories, a conference room, dormitories, kitchen and provided the young institution with a ship to visit Danube lakes of the flooded Danube zone with student and scientist visitors. The Hyrobiological Research Station in Brăila is still functional today. In 2005, Didina and Ștefan Negrea were invited as founders, to celebrate the Station’s bicentennial.

Since 1957 Alexandrina Negrea became researcher at the “Emil Racoviță” Speleological Institute in Bucharest. In 1971 she defended her Ph.D. thesis in Biology, with title: *Gastropod population dynamic from Crapina-Jijila Complex of flooding Danube zone*. Her Ph.D. adviser was Professor Dr. doc. Nicolae Botnariuc – the best and well known Romanian evolutionist. Alexandrina Negrea worked at the Speleological Institute 53 years (1957–2010), daily accompanying and working with her husband in the same laboratory, up to her 80th anniversary. Their last common paper was printed in 2011, just when Didina passed away.

Officially, Didina retired in 1997 at an age of 67. Her husband retired in 2005, at 75 and he is still working at his 82 years (in 2012), having a protocol with the Institute of Speleology “Emil Racovitza” to co-operate as an associate senior researcher, as much as he can.



Prof. Alexandru V. Grossu on 24th May 2001, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary at the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History. From left to right: Ioana Matache, Prof. Al.V. Grossu, Dochița Lupu, Dr. Alexandrina Negrea, Dr. Medeea Weinberg, Andrei Mircea, Elena Cursaru and Dumitru Murariu – director of the Museum. (Photo: George Năzăreanu; by courtesy of Dr. Ștefan Negrea).

As a specialist in Molluscs, Dr. Alexandrina Negrea published as a single author, and co-operated with important malacologists from all over the world: K. Jacobson from U.S.A., F.C. Loosjes from Netherlands, Adolf Riedel from Poland, V. Jadin from Russia, Alexandru Grossu from Romania. Didina has done taxonomic revisions and described nine new species and a new genus of Gastropods. Thus Dr. Alexandrina Negrea was recognized as a remarkable specialist in terrestrial and aquatic gastropods, clarifying many taxonomic and systematic problems. The gastropod species described by Didina are: *Acme oltenica* A. Negrea, 1963; *Lacinaria dobrogensis* F. Loosjes and A. Negrea, 1968; *Troglovitrea argintarui* A. Negrea and A. Riedel, 1968; *Argna angustistoma* A. Grossu and A. Negrea, 1968; *Argna crassilabris* A. Grossu and A. Negrea, 1968; *Argna nana* A. Gossu and A. Negrea, 1968; *Paladilhia dobrogica* A. Grossu and A. Negrea, 1989. The new genus of Gastropoda is *Troglovitrea* A. Negrea and A. Riedel, 1968.

Alexandrina Negrea published 100 papers in different Romanian and foreign journals of biology with topics of ecology (mainly from underground karst environments), biogeography, biospeleology, nature conservation etc. Together

with Dr. Ștefan Negrea and Dr. Lazar Botoșăneanu wrote about exploration of more than 240 Romanian caves and mapped 30 km of cave rooms and galleries, mainly from south-western part of the country. Her scientific results were published in many journals and Publishing Houses. A book published by the National Centre for Scientific Research – France (Paris, 1967) with a forward signed by the distinguished French scientist Albert Vandel, was characterized as a model of regional speleological monographs (see no. 19 in the attached List).



The team's nucleus in the field trip to study underground environment in Banat, Romania: Lazar Botoșăneanu, Ștefan Negrea and Alexandrina Negrea. (Photo Lili Botoșăneanu. By courtesy of Dr. Ștefan Negrea).

Didina was a member of different teams working abroad with scientific results printed in the Romanian Academy Publishing House. This refers to a scientific expedition organized by Dr. Ștefan Negrea in Israel – at the invitation of prof. F. Dov Por from Jerusalem University – to collect and search terrestrial invertebrate fauna, mainly Chilopods, in May–June 1990. With the allocated funds he made a team composed of Dr. Alexandrina Negrea, Dr. Iosif Căpușe and Dr. Vasile Decu in order to collect the invertebrate fauna from many sites across Israel and neighboring areas.



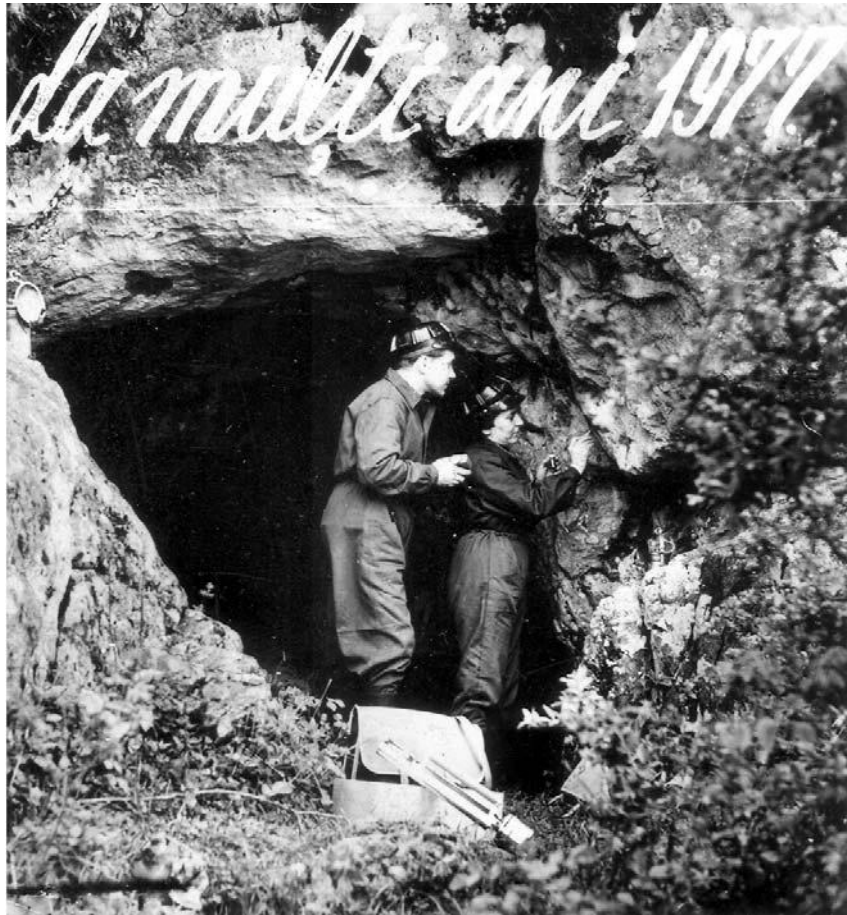
Dr. Oana Paula Popa one of Dr. Alexandrina Negrea's students – today a scientist specialized on molecular biology in the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History – Bucharest. Picture in museum's conference room on the occasion of launching *The Red Book of Vertebrates from Romania*. Between ladies, in background – Academician Nicolae Botnariuc.

Dr. Alexandrina Negrea advised interested young people how to work of a work in Gastropoda, co-operated with foreign specialists and activated in several professional associations. She helped students to prepare their Master Degree and Ph. Degree thesis in different biological fields; she initiated young researchers from different Universities and Biological Stations in the country, to organize and start their research activity.

Many years, Alexandrina Negrea, Ștefan Negrea and Victor Gheorghiu initiated amateur speleologists from Romania, in National Biospeleological School, guided and managed by Dr. Ștefan Negrea to the Speleological Institute Station in Cloșani, Gorj Co. Totally they gave lectures to 13 series of young speleologists, learning to protect natural environment and their fauna.

Since 1968, Dr. Alexandrina Negrea became a member of the Biological Sciences Society from Romania and since 1969 – member and honorary custodian of the Commission of Nature Monuments in Romanian Academy. Starting with 1993, Alexandrina Negrea was an active member of the Romanian Society of Systematic Zoology and in 2003 – founder member of the Romanian Limnological Society. But since 1962, Alexandrina Negrea became a member of the *Unitas Malacologica Europaeas* – UME, and in 1965 – member of the International Union of Speleology – UIS. Since 1983 – member of the *Société de Biospéologie de*

France. In 1971 Didina has got a personal invitation to Paris, on the behalf of the famous malacologist Professor M. Lamotte, to attend with a paper in the Symposium's programme, dedicated to the polymorphism topic on *Cepaea* species (Gastropoda). The scientific collection of Dr. A. Negrea was completely inventoried and is preserved now in the "Emile Racovitza" Institute in Bucharest, being consulted and appreciated by worldwide zoologists.



Dr. Alexandrina Negrea and Dr. Ștefan Negrea collecting parietal fauna in Vrașca Cave from Carașului Gorges (Anina Mountains, Banat). (By the courtesy of Dr. Ștefan Negrea, 1979).

Her valuable scientific contributions were distinguished with "Emil Racoviță" award on the behalf of the Romanian Academy and were nominated by the American Biographical Institute, for the prestigious title *Woman of the Year 2003*. In 2004 and 2005 her bibliography was included in *The Contemporary Who's Who*, edited by the American Biographical Institute and was nominated as a *Consulting editor*.



A picture taken by Academician Christian Juberthie – director of the renowned “*Laboratoire Southerrain du CNRS, Moulis, France*” on the occasion of the visit to his friends in Speleological Institute “Emil Racovitza”, From the left to right: Vasile Decu, Ștefan Negrea, Maria Georgescu, Alexandrina Negrea and Ionel Tabacaru – all Ph. D. in biology. (By the courtesy of Dr. Ștefan Negrea, 4 July 1990).



Merited Professor Francis Dor Por from the Jerusalem University, together with Didina Negrea (his colleague from Faculty of Biology in Bucharest) and Ștefan Negrea (who organized to the Institute of the Recent History from Bucharest) to the launching of his autobiographical book “*A youth in Romania*”, signed with pseudonym Bernard Politzer. Behind Por is Academician Nicolae Botnariuc, checking a book. (By the courtesy of Ștefan Negrea, 9 December 2004).

We can say Dr. Alexandrina Negrea was gifted with an unusual power of work, had a long and fruitful scientific research activity, represented by a high scientific degree. She participated at different scientific meetings in the country and abroad. She was a good example and adviser for Romanian young researchers, an optimistic and warm soul who spread around her a high spirits in all teams, in field trips and in Institute.

Dr. Alexandrina Negrea represented with great honour the Romanian biological sciences, having a rich scientific activity. She loved her profession, maybe at the same level – as her husband Dr. Ștefan Negrea for 60 years – a lucky man and representative Romanian biologist, both of them being totally devoted to scientific research in biology. The survivor husband is unhappy without Didina and all of us encourage him to be strong and together with us to keep alive Didina's memory.

All of us who met and knew Didina, we loved and appreciated her, and we will miss her encouraging words and good advices addressed to young researchers. She never was tired to attend and tell her opinions as a specialist, on different scientific topics. Certainly we will never forget her!

Dumitru Murariu
“Grigore Antipa” National Museum of
Natural History – Bucharest

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1. GENERAL

Travaux de l'Institut de Speologie "Emile Racovitza" publishes both fundamental and applied research articles in the field of speleology, soil biology and environmental science of karst.

The journal is edited by the Institute of Speleology "Emile Racovitza" (ISER) and the Romanian Academy Publishing House.

1.1. Types of papers.

(i) Research papers must be original and refer to topics of fundamental or applied research. They must be concise, focus on new results and data, and preferably not exceed 14 printed pages. It is recommended that the number of figures and tables should not be higher than 10. Longer manuscripts may be accepted for publishing at the discretion of the editorial office.

(ii) Research notes should concern a specific aspect or preliminary results of ongoing research. They represent a concise description of one research aim. The exigencies regarding the description of the methods and the references are those of a scientific paper. The length of research notes, including figures and bibliography, is limited to 4 printed pages.

(iii) Review articles present the achievements on a certain research topic in a critical and exhaustive analysis based on updated and complete references. There is no page limit for review articles.

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1.4. Review process. When the editorial board receives a manuscript and considers that the topic and format is suitable for this journal, the manuscript is sent to two reviewers qualified in the field to review the scientific content. The peer review process lasts less than one month but it may be longer for review articles depending on the manuscript length.

The authors are not informed about the identities of the reviewers. In order to guarantee an impartial peer review process, author's name, surname and institution along with a contact address (phone no., e-mail) should be submitted on a separate page. The reviewers make the decision either to publish or reject a manuscript. When an article is accepted, the author will receive a list of modifications required prior to publishing. Three situations might occur: (i) the article is accepted with minor modifications; (ii) the article is accepted with major modifications; (iii) the article should be rewritten and resubmitted.

Authors are asked to do the recommended modifications. Any complaint should be expressed in writing. A letter in which the author has considered each modification suggested by the peer reviewers should be attached to the final article. The papers considered unacceptable by peer reviewers will not be published. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors.

2. ARTICLE STRUCTURE

All articles must be elaborated and structured according to the following rules, discordant articles will be rejected. Manuscripts should contain the title, an abstract, key words and the body of the article (bibliography, figures and tables included).

2.1. The title should be clear, concise and suggestive. Ambiguous, too long, too general or one-word titles should be avoided. Abbreviations are not accepted.

2.2. The abstract should be analytical and provide sufficient information even to a reader who is neither an expert nor familiar with the field. It should be approximately 200-300 words comprising the objectives and main conclusion of the article. Abstracts are frequently databased and indexed and play a key-role in introducing the potential readers to an “*in extenso*” reading. The key words should express the characteristic elements of the article.

2.3. The content will be written in English and structured in accordance with the following criteria.

1. **Introduction.** The motivation or purpose of the research should appear in the Introduction, where are stated the questions authors sought to answer. Some of the historical basis for those questions should be provided.

2. **Materials and methods.** This chapter should present detailed information concerning the place of research, materials and methods used in order to allow the exact replication of the experimental work. This will facilitate correct interpretation of the results.

A clear description of experimental design, sampling procedures, and statistical procedures is especially important in papers describing field studies, simulations, or experiments. Give the model number for equipment used. Supply complete citations, including author (or editor), title, year, publisher, and version number, for computer software mentioned in your article.

3. **Results.** Results should be stated concisely and without interpretation.

4. **Discussion.** This chapter focuses on the rigorously supported aspects of the study. The results of the study must be carefully differentiated from data obtained from other sources.

They must be interpreted and related to the results of previous research. Please discuss the implications of your results or interpretations. Point out results that do not support speculations or the findings of previous research, or that are counter-intuitive.

5. **Conclusion.** This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

Acknowledgements. This chapter can follow ‘Conclusion’ chapter, mentioning those people or institutions that have facilitated the research accomplishment. This chapter receives no heading number.

References. It is important to note that all the publications quoted in the text should be included in the bibliography and vice versa. The bibliography should not contain publications that cannot be identified in the text and authors should ensure the text references and the bibliographic list correspond.

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Review articles do not follow the above mentioned structure. However, they should include: (i) an introductory part, (ii) a careful and critical presentation of the relevant aspects of the topic approached, and eventually (iii) emphasis of the aspects that are inadequately known and require further study to progress understanding in the phenomenon.

3. ELECTRONIC FORMAT REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTED ARTICLES

Microsoft Word format or its equivalent is preferred. It is recommended to use Times New Roman, size 11 for the body of the text and size 9 for tables, figures, bibliography and abstract. The body of the text must be double-spaced. Figures, tables and line numbers have to be inserted at the end of the document. For optimal publication of the article, figures should be submitted separately as attachments to the Microsoft Word document or as an image (e.g. .tif, .jpg). Attachments should include the name of the corresponding author (e.g. Borda.doc). Each figure will be numbered in accordance with the body of the text. Photos will be sent in digital format at a resolution of 300 dpi. It is suggested to send black and white graphics and photos provided it does not affect the information.

Structure of chapters. The paper will be structured as follows: 1. Introduction; 2. Materials and Methods; 3. Results; 4. Discussion; 5. Conclusion. Subchapters and paragraphs will be numbered with Arabic figures separated by dots, according to the level of heading (e.g. 1. Chapter; 1.1. Subchapter; 1.1.1.Paragraph).

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The scientific names of species will be given in italics. The names of plants, animals or microorganisms will be followed by the scientific names when first used in the text along with the author of denomination e.g. *Meta menardi* (Latreille, 1804).

Abbreviations and acronyms will be explained when first mentioned in the article.

Proper names of any kind will be written with Latin characters and diacritical signs corresponding to the original language in which they were written.

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Tabacaru, I., Danielopol, D., *Title of journal article with one author (Italics)* . Publication name volume (normal) (issue), **volume (bold)** (issue), pages, year (e.g. **10**(1), 10 - 16, 2000).

Dajoz, R., *Title of book*. Publisher, City, number of pages, year (e.g. 150 p., 2003)

Meyer A., *Title of chapter* in an edited book. In Editor(s) name(s)(ed.), Book title. Publisher, City, pages, year (e.g. pp. 80-89, 2005).

Nitzu, E., *Title of the paper published in the proceedings of one scientific conference*. In Editor(s) name(s)(ed.), Conference name, period, conference location. Publisher, City, pages, year (e.g. pp. 70-79, 2001).

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