

## **In memory of RNDr. Terézia Krippelová, CSc. on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth**

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In the jubilee, 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation" held in September 4–7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Danišovce, we have respectfully commemorated life and work of RNDr. Terézia Krippelová, CSc. – the foundress of synanthropic botany in Slovakia – on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth.

Born in May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1922 in Bratislava in the family of the civil engineer, Terézia Krippelová spent almost all her life in a family cottage surrounded by a marvellous garden in one of the most picturesque parts of Bratislava called Horský park. In hard war and post-war time of 1942–1949 she studied biology and geography at the Slovakian University in Bratislava. Having graduated from the university, she worked at the Institute of Botany of the aforesaid university teaching Cultural Plants. In 1949 she successfully defended her dissertation work "Weeds and Ruderal Plants of Bratislava surroundings" acquiring the doctor's degree (RNDr.). In this 150-paged work she, for the first time in Slovakia, distinguished and analysed plants according their origin.



In 1952-54 she worked as a researcher at the Central Control Agricultural Institute and the Research Institute of Agricultural Economy in Bratislava. Her work in these years is summarised in two books: *Ekológia burín v obilninách* (1953) – The Ecology of Weeds in Cereals (1953) and *Semená burín* (1955) – Seeds of Weeds (1955), published with dr. Krippel as a co-author. Both publications are still regarded as an inherent tool in specialised branches of botany. The value of *The Ecology of Weeds in Cereals* reflects the requirement for its re-edition.

In 1955 she came to the Laboratory of Geobotany and Plant Systematics of SAS, where she, firstly at Geobotany Department of the Institute of Botany, then at the Institute of Experimental Biology and Ecology, worked as a head researcher up to 1982. Here, in 1962, she successfully defended her PhD. thesis „Rastlinné spoločenstvá pri ľudských sídlach, na príklade mesta Malacky“ (Plant Communities in Human Settlements in an Example of the Town of Malacky). Later, she studied synanthropic vegetation in different parts of Slovakia, namely in Záhorská nížina, Žitný ostrov, Košická, Popradská and Hornádska kotlina (Záhorie Lowland, Žitný Inland Island, Košice, Poprad and Hornad Basins). Her research led to accumulation of phytocoenological relevés of synanthropic communities, to cognition of their ecology, distribution, rates of threat, to classification of vegetation and anthropogenic soils, all these accompanied by teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students and providing advisory for specialists.

The results of her research she summed up in numerous concluding reports and publications (KOPECKÝ 1982). In such a way she has actually prepared ground for the review of synanthropic plant communities of Slovakia, completed by her disciples in 420-paged publication issued in 1997 in the edition “*Prehľad rastlinných spoločenstiev Slovenska 2. Synantropná vegetácia*” (The Review of Plant Communities of Slovakia. 2<sup>nd</sup> volume Synanthropic Vegetation). Dr. T. Krippelová was a co-author of the Review of Ruderal Plant Communities of Czechoslovakia (HEJNÝ et al. 1979). Unfortunately – for us and for the present generation of botanists – political situation in times when dr. T. Krippelová lived and worked did not allow her to defend her already prepared doctorate thesis.

Considerable part of her life she pursued to the Czech and Slovak Botanical Societies being a long-term member of both. She fully realised the importance of synanthropic research in Slovakia as well as its absence at that time. Gradually she surrounded herself with enthusiastic botanists interested in this problem, so as early as 1969 she set up a Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research in the Slovak Botanical Society, which held state-wide (Czechoslovak) competence up to 1979. She guided systematically and purposefully the research of synanthropic flora and vegetation coordinated with the Czech Republic, organised lectures and sessions around botanical literature, home and abroad excursions, colloquiums, gave countless lectures home and abroad. Appraising scientific life of Terézia Krippelová it is impossible to forget her national-wide (Czechoslovak) symposiums on Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation with large international participation organised by the Slovak Botanical Society under her leadership in 1971, 1973, 1976, 1983, and widely known as “Bratislava’s” or simply “Terka’s”. These very events were used to

confront results achieved in Slovakia with those from abroad, to establish and maintain contacts, to exchange gained experience. Firstly, papers and reports from these symposiums were published in the newly established periodical *Acta Botanica Slovaca*, and then – in individual proceedings. One can easily trace the origin of today's international conferences "Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation" from Bratislava's synanthropic symposiums.

Having retired, she fully dedicated herself to her marvellous garden. Even then she managed to apply her long-term experience from scientific work and her large collection of art photos of plants, nature and her own garden in a series of 4 popular scientific books that brought her to public notice.

The long and inspiring period that dr. T. Krippelová left behind has spanned since 1969, or even 1949, up to the present time. The tradition of organised systematic research bore fruit. Under her erudite, kind and human approach many successful events in the life of botanical community took place, many

specialists in her branch were raised, the results of scientific research were published. Her lifetime fruitful work was prized by the Slovak Botanical Society who granted her honorary and meritorious membership and awarded the Holuby's Commemorative Medal. In April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in its celebratory meeting "The year 2002 Outstanding Personalities of SAS" highly evaluated scientific outcome of her work.

The supplementary bibliography of RNDr. Terézia KRIPPELOVÁ, CSc. to the list of her publications, cited in *Preslia* 54: 185-188, 1982 by dr. Karol KOPECKÝ

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