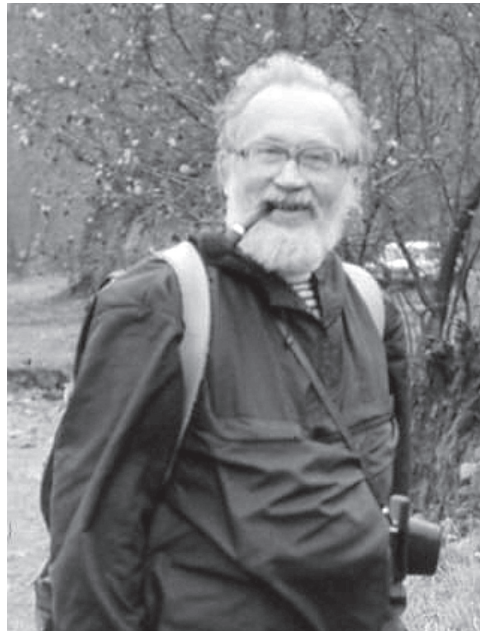


A tribute to Janusz Stanisław Nowak (1930 – 2004)

Urszula BIELCZYK



Janusz Nowak, 1985 in the Beskid Niski Mts.
Photo: Hanna Wójciak.

Janusz Nowak died at the age of 74 on December 24th, 2004. The funeral was held at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Krakow on December 30th. During his final earthly journey, he was accompanied by family, friends and colleagues, co-workers, and a large circle of lichenologists from all academic centers in Poland.

Janusz Nowak was born on June 17th, 1930, in Chrzanow, where he grew up and attended elementary, middle and high school. In 1951, after coming to Krakow, he worked at the Jagiellonian University's Institute of Botany and the Botanical Garden. He graduated from the Jagiellonian University with a Master's Degree in biology in 1957. Janusz Nowak's scientific

work was inseparably bound with the W. Szafer Institute of Botany, at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow. He started working there immediately after graduation and organized the Laboratory of Lichenology that he administered until 1992. In his scientific career, he received a doctoral degree in 1962 and qualified as an assistant professor in 1973; in 1997 he became a professor.

Professor Nowak's scientific interests concentrated mainly on geobotanic and floristic studies of lichens. He published a number of original works in that field, and these are indelibly imprinted in the history of studies of Polish lichen flora. He conducted intensive field studies, initially in the Krakow-Czestochowa Upland area and later in different parts of the Carpathian Mountains. The publication on the saxicolous associations of the lichens of Krakow-Czestochowa Upland (in 1960) and the account on the problems of the distribution of lichens in the Polish Western Beskids (1972) are a summary of these investigations. One of Janusz Nowak's most important publications is a book, written together with Zygmunt Tobolewski in 1975, entitled "Polish lichens", which contains descriptions and an identification key to all the lichen taxa known from Poland (1655 species).

Another area of Professor Nowak's interests was taxonomy. The results of his studies in this field are presented in the three-volume "Flora of Poland, Lichens", dedicated to the following groups of lichens: Arthoniaceae, Opegraphaceae, Lecanactidaceae and Roccellaceae (1983); Physciaceae sensu stricto (1993); Buelliaceae (Physciaceae sensu lato) (1998). These accounts are the synopsis of studies of the occurrence of these lichens in Poland. Janusz Nowak's favorite ecological group was always saxicolous lichens, and he was particularly interested in species from the order Verrucariales. He amassed a large collection of these species and became an expert on them.

For over 40 years of his scientific activity and many field expeditions, Professor Nowak accumulated almost 30000 specimens of lichens from Poland and other countries. The lichen herbarium (KRAM) that he commenced and curated for many years is currently one of the most significant collections in Europe, a collection that he continued to contribute to until the last moments of his work. The herbarium was, after all, one of the greatest passions of his life. To develop the Krakow herbarium quickly, he started editing the exsiccatae series "Lichenes Poloniae Meridionalis Exsiccati", intended mainly for international exchange purposes. He published 250 issues in ten fascicles.

For many years Janusz Nowak was a member of the Polish Botanical Association, and within it of the Lichenological Section, as well as belonging to other national and international associations. He was also a noteworthy contributor to the instruction of academic staff. He conferred two doctor's degrees, wrote many reviews for doctoral theses and theses qualifying for assistant-professorship, as well as publishing himself. As an eminent expert on lichens, he willingly and frequently consulted with almost all lichenologists in Poland, sharing his knowledge and providing access to herbarium material and professional literature.

Professor Janusz Nowak retired in 1992 but continued his scientific research until 1997. His work ended abruptly and for the last 7 years of his life, Professor Janusz Nowak struggled bravely with a serious illness, an extreme difficulty for such an active person. Even during that period, he remained interested in the progress of lichenological research, and very actively revised articles that his colleagues from Poland and abroad would send him. He drew great pleasure from the large and small successes of his colleagues. Even when paralyzed and in a wheelchair, he was always glad to visit his colleagues and friends at the Institute. Thanks to

the help of his wife, Barbara Morawska-Nowak, a tireless and loyal life companion, he managed to attend three more annual assemblies of the Lichenological Section of Polish Botanical Association.

In the memories of those who knew him, he will remain not only a scientific worker with extensive knowledge and experience, but also friendly, open, helpful and straightforward man. We will all miss him very much.

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Address of the author

Urszula Bielczyk, Laboratory of Lichenology, Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lubicz 46, P-31-512 Krakow, Poland. E-mail: bielczyk@ib-pan.krakow.pl