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Faunal assemblages, stratigraphy and taphonomy of the Late Miocene localities in the Republic of Moldova



Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals
Polish Academy of Sciences
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**Professor Aleksandru Nikolae LUNGU
(1936-2011)**

Aleksandru Nikolae LUNGU (1.9.1936-30.7.2011) was a world class paleontologist that dedicated his life to science and teaching. He was born in Prodănești Vechi village (Sorooca county, Florești district of contemporary Republic of Moldova). After finishing secondary school, A. N. LUNGU studied in Taras Shevchenko State Pedagogic Institute in Tiraspol at the Department of Geography where he majored in teaching geography and biology. He continued his postgraduate studies at the Paleontological Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR (between 1963-1966) and received the degree of Candidate of Sciences for a thesis entitled “Hipparion fauna of the middle Sarmatian of Moldova” written under the scientific supervision of the well-known paleontologist, professor K. K. FLEROV. In the years 1966-1967 A. N. LUNGU worked in the division of Paleontology and Stratigraphy of the Academy of Sciences of MSSR, and subsequently returned to his pedagogical occupation. He received his doctorate in 1990 for the work: “Early developmental stages of the hipparion fauna of the continental edge of the Parathethys Sea”. Georgian paleontologist L. K. GABUNIA was a consultant of this thesis.

Aleksandru N. LUNGU commenced his scientific and didactic work already at the Tiraspol State Pedagogical Institute in the Department of Geography, where he worked until he received a professorship in 1992. For over 20 years he was Chair of General Geography and put much effort into its development. The separation of the unrecognized Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (with a capital in Tiraspol) from the Republic of Moldova, accompanied by armed conflict, resulted in obligatory change for the Pedagogical Insti-

tute: in 1992 the Institute's employees were forced to immediately move the Institute to Kishinëv (Chişinău) without the possibility of taking the scientific collection with them. In Kishinëv everything had to be started from the beginning.

Professor A. N. LUNGU has authored more than 130 scientific papers, including original works, revisions and monographs. Many of these papers, especially concerning the Hipparion fauna of Moldova's Middle Sarmatian are widely known and cited to this day. Professor A. N. LUNGU also participated in many paleontological expeditions and collaborated with various well-known European paleontologists, substantially contributing to the systematics and morphology of the fossil mammal fauna, paleogeography, and paleoecology of the upper Miocene of Eastern Europe.

Apart from his scientific endeavors, A. N. LUNGU spent much of his time training younger generations of scientists by giving lectures and practical exercises, mostly in paleogeography and geology. He also contributed to academic textbooks, atlases and other references for students and pupils. He supervised many B. Sc. and M. Sc. theses and two Ph. D. theses.

The scientific and pedagogical achievements of Aleksandru N. LUNGU have been repeatedly acknowledged as attested by numerous diplomas and awards at both the university and national levels. In 1996 he was given the "Gloria Muncii" order, while in 2010 the President of the Republic of Moldova gave him the title of "Om Emerit" (Person of Merit).

Igor NICOARA

We mourn and remember, with especial respect.

His disciples