

OBITUARY

SABINA CZYŻEWSKA D.SC. (AGR.) – FOUNDER-MEMBER OF THE POLISH PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY – WARSAW DIVISION

On 20th of February 2012 in Pruszków near Warsaw passed away Dr. Sabina Czyżewska, mycologist and plant pathologist, an expert in seed pathology. Her grave is in Warsaw, cemetery in Marysin Wawerski, Korkowa street 152.

Born in Siedlce on 16th May 1928, Sabina Czyżewska started her studies at the Faculty of Horticulture of the Warsaw Agricultural University (Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego) in 1946. Before she graduated as engineer of horticulture and Master of Science in 1951, she had several trainings in plant protection divisions of the State Research Institute of Rural Husbandry (Państwowy Instytut Naukowy Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego) in Puławy and Bydgoszcz. Her master thesis on “Cucurbitaceae diseases and their seed microflora” („Choroby roślin dyniowatych i mikroflora nasion”) was supervised by Professor Józef Kochman.

In 1951–1966 she held a position of research assistant in Department of Industrial Plant Crop Diseases in the Institute of Plant Protection in Reguły, near Warsaw. In the meantime (1953–1957) she was a doctor student at the Warsaw Agricultural University in the Department of Plant Pathology. This resulted in 1966 in Doctor of Science in Agriculture degree, based on a dissertation “Research on alternariosis of crambe (*Crambe abyssinica* Hochst.) caused by fungi from *Alternaria* Nees genus” („Badania nad alternariozą modraka abisyńskiego (*Crambe abyssinica* Hochst.) wywołaną przez grzyby z rodzaju *Alternaria* Nees”), under the guidance of Prof. J. Kochman.

That was the year in which the Division of Institute of Plant Protection in Reguły ceased its activity and Dr. Czyżewska started her work in the Research Institute of Vegetable Crops in Skierniewice: at first in the Department of Breeding and Seed Science in Reguły, and from 1978 on, until retirement in 1991 – in the Department of Seed Science in Skierniewice.



During the entire time of her research activity Dr. Czyżewska worked on seed transmitted diseases of industrial and vegetable crops. Her interests included pathogenicity of causing agents, plant health status, seed material quality, cultivar resistance, diagnostic methods and disease control. Dr. Sabina Czyżewska was one of some few specialists in seed pathology in Poland. The results of her work in the field of plant pathology and mycology were published in more than 50 original papers and ca 30 popular ones, 5 handbooks and 5 review papers. Dr. Czyżewska was co-author of “Encyclopaedia of Plant Protection” („Encyklopedia ochrony roślin”, 1963) and “Polish Bibliography of Seed Microflora” („Polska bibliografia mikroflory nasion”, 1991). She reviewed numerous papers for publications and participated in many local and international congresses, conferences and symposia.

Dr. Czyżewska was a member of many bodies, e.g.: Commission for Fibrous Plants in Scientific-Technical Council of The Minister of Agriculture (Komisja ds. Roślin Włóknistych w Radzie Naukowo-Technicznej przy Ministrze Rolnictwa), Coordination Group for Cultivation and Breeding Papilionaceous Plants (Zespół Koordynacyjny ds. Uprawy i Hodowli Roślin Strączkowych), Commission for Evaluation of Research Projects (Komisja Odbioru Prac Badawczych) within sub-problem 06. “Improvement of control methods against diseases and pests on vegetable plants” („Doskonalenie metod zwalczania chorób i szkodników roślin warzywnych”).

Being from 1951 a member of the Polish Botanical Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Botaniczne), Dr. Czyżewska took part in 1957 in establishing and organization of Mycological Section of the Warsaw Division of the Society. In the Section she was member of the Board and then secretary of the Polish Botanical Society Board.

Dr. Czyżewska was also a founding member of The Polish Phytopathological Society in Warsaw in 1972. There she was at first treasurer of the Warsaw Division, and then member of its Board. Her very active work in the Section of Seed Pathology and Section of Nomenclature contributed a lot to both Sections' achievements.

Dr. Sabina Czyżewska was awarded with the decoration “Meritorious to Agriculture” (odznaka honorowa „Zasłużony dla Rolnictwa”, 1977), the Golden Cross of Merit (Złoty Krzyż Zasługi, 1982) and Medal 40-years of Polish People's Republic (Medal 40-lecia Polski Ludowej, 1984).

For years she was very active in trade unions, constantly helpful to co-workers.

Dr. Sabina Czyżewska had many friends, as a friendly person always ready to advise and help both in professional and private matters. She will be remembered not only for her professional skills, but also for her kindness and great heart.

Hanna Zarzycka and Małgorzata Mańka