

**In memoriam**



SIWERT NILSSON

1933–2002

## TO THE MEMORY OF PROF. DR. SIWERT NILSSON

Professor Siwert NILSSON was born in Bräcke, Sweden, on July 30, 1933. He began his university studies at Uppsala University and obtained MSc (Botany, Geography, Zoology) in 1959 and 1965, the licentiate degree in the Institute of Systematic Botany. In 1959 as an assistant he started his research work at the Swedish Council of Natural Sciences in the world-famous Palynological Laboratory headed by Professor Gunnar Erdtman in Stockholm.

Professor NILSSON began his pollen morphological studies on the family of Apocynaceae and with the Gentianaceae. In 1970 he defended his PhD thesis entitled "Pollen morphological studies in the Gentianaceae". After the transfer of the Palynological Laboratory into the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm Dr. NILSSON took over the leadership and remained there as director until his retirement on July 1, 1998.

Concerning the pollen morphological studies he made a great effort on international organization level to solve the problems in the terminology of the spores and pollen grains including the nomenclature of the different layers of the wall of the sporoderm.

In 1973 he initiated a research program on Aerobiology. He was a pioneer in this field of science in the Stockholm Palynological Laboratory and he recognized the necessity of the multidisciplinary cooperation with meteorological and medical institutions in Stockholm. The handbook "Atlas of Airborne Pollen Grains and Spores in Northern Europe" published by S. NILSSON, J. PRAGLOWSKI and L. NILSSON has always been a basic comprehensive work in the investigations on allergenic pollen grains.

In 1992, in recognition of his scientific achievements, Dr. NILSSON was nominated as Professor in Palynology. He was not only a great scientist in Palynology but an excellent teacher as well. He led several postgraduate students from both Sweden and foreign countries to PhD degree.

Six books and about 100 papers were published by Professor NILSSON. He was in his sixties when he became assistant editor of *Grana Palynologica*, from 1978 co-editor of *Grana* and in 1985 he became editor-in-chief. After his retirement he continued his scientific activity at the Palynological Laboratory as Professor Emeritus. Until his death he remained the editor-in-chief of *Grana*.

He was honoured with awards and medals by many scientific organizations. His sudden and early death was a terrible shock not only to his family and the Palynological Laboratory of Stockholm, but to palynologists all over the world.

Every member of the Cell Biological Laboratory of the University of Szeged received in the greatest sadness the unexpected death of Professor S. NILSSON.

By his death we have lost a great man, a prominent teacher and an excellent scientist in one.

His memory will always remain with us.

The staff of the Cell Biological and Evolutionary  
Micropaleontological Laboratory  
of the University of Szeged