

Professor Asuman Baytop (1920-2015)

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Dr.sc.nat., Dr.h.c. Asuman Baytop

(Photo by F. Günergün, 1998)

Asuman Baytop, former professor of botany, passed away in Istanbul on the 18th of February 2015. She was born on March 1920 to Dr. Mehmet Kamil and Meliha Berk in Istanbul. She received her bachelor's degree from Istanbul University, School of Pharmacy in 1943. In 1949, she completed her PhD thesis titled *Contributions à l'étude pharmacognosique de 4 espèces alpines d'Achillea* at the Pharmaceutical Institute of the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (Zurich) under the supervision

of Professor Hans Flück. The same year she returned to Turkey and was appointed as assistant to the School of Pharmacy, Istanbul University. In 1964 she founded the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany and acted as its director until her retirement in March 1987. After then, she pursued her researches and contributed to the Department's activities as a consultant professor emerita.

During the years 1965-1987, she was a member and then head of Editorial Board of the *Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy of Istanbul University*; she acted as Editorial Board member after her retirement for another two years.

Asuman Baytop started to collect plants in 1941 when she was a student at the School of Pharmacy. This was during an excursion in the surroundings of Istanbul, organized by Prof. A. Heilbronn. She continued to herborize in the Swiss and Austrian Alps when working on her PhD thesis in ETH. Upon her return to Turkey, she undertook many excursions in the environs of Istanbul, in European Turkey and Anatolia: The total number of excursions she made up to 1987 is about 160. She collected 5870 plant specimens from around Istanbul and 7470 from European Turkey. These are all housed in ISTE (Herbarium of Istanbul University Faculty of Pharmacy). Her contribution to the flora of European Turkey was awarded with a medal of honour in 1978 at the Second International Symposium on the Problems of Balkan Flora and Vegetation.

Asuman Baytop made her first Anatolian excursion to Uludağ with Prof. A. Heilbronn in 1943. Following this, she made about hundred trips to Anatolia and collected mainly medicinal and useful plant specimens and recorded their vernacular names. Her Anatolian collection comprises about 16.000 (including the Istanbul collection) specimens. Her original collection is housed in ISTE and counts about 23.300 specimens. *The Flora of Turkey* (1965-2000) cites 1876 specimens collected by herself. She also contributed as author to P.H. Davis's *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*. The eight volume of this monumental *Flora* was dedicated to A. and T. Baytop in recognition of their valuable contribution for many years. Her floristic work and her services in creating and enriching the Herbarium ISTE were rewarded with the Service Award (*Hizmet Ödülü*) of TÜBİTAK, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey in 1999.

Professor A. Baytop supervised the following doctorate theses:

Nevin (Gülen) Tanker ‘‘*Juniperus nana* bitkisi üzerinde farmakognozik arařtırmalar’’ (Pharmacognostical investigation on *Juniperus nana* 1959); Tekand Gözler ‘‘Türk kitre zamkı hakkında’’ (Studies on the Turkish *Tragacantha* 1970); Gözde Ertem ‘‘Türkiye’nin Trakya bölgesindeki *Euphorbia* türleri’’ (*Euphorbia* species in the European Part of Turkey 1970); Neriman Özhatay ‘‘Türkiye’nin Trakya bölgesi ve İstanbul çevresindeki *Orobanch*e türleri’’ (*Orobanch*e species in European part of Turkey and around İstanbul, 1973); Ertan Tuzlacı ‘‘Honaz dađının bitkisel örtüsü’’ (Flora of Honaz Mountain , 1975); Güldan Dökmeci ‘‘Sultandađlarının yerli ve tıbbi bitkileri’’ (Wild and medicinal plants of Sultan Dađları, 1978); Kerim Alpınar ‘‘Akdađ (Amasya) bitkileri’’ (Flora of Akdađ (Amasya) 1979); Mustafa Sabri Saraçođlu ‘‘Türkiye’nin tek yıllık *Papaver* türleri üzerinde sistematik arařtırmalar’’ (Systematic studies on the annual *Papaver* species of Turkey), 1982).

From 1987 on, Asuman Baytop was also engaged in the study of the history of botany and published the pioneering book *Türkiye’de Botanik Tarihi Arařtırmaları* (*Studies on the History of Botany in Turkey*). She authored 71 papers on this field between 1989 and 2013.

Besides researching in the Turkish flora, A. Baytop contributed to the teaching of pharmaceutical botany and published books and atlases for students and researchers to guide them both in theoretical courses and in laboratory practices. She published also the catalogue of the ISTE Herbarium in 3 volumes between 1984 and 1992. She authored, in 1990s, two lexicographical works that became reference books for Turkish botanists: *Bitkilerin Bilimsel Adlarındaki Niteleyiciler* (Epithets in plants’ scientific names) and *İngilizce-Türkçe Botanik Kılavuzu* (An English-Turkish Botanical Guidebook).

A. Baytop’s biography and her scientific activities together with a list of her publications has been compiled by her daughter Professor Feza Günergün (See *Asuman Baytop Festschrift*, special issue of the *Osmanlı Bilimi Arařtırmaları / Studies in Ottoman Science*, Vol. XI, 1-2, 2009-2010, pp. 5-34).

Professor Asuman Baytop was an excellent teacher and scientist; her academic work, her kindness and her profound scientific knowledge will always live in our memories.



Crocus asumaniae Mathew&T.Baytop by Faruk Canız

Prof. Asuman Baytop contributed the following flowering plant species to the Turkish Flora

- **She described the following plant taxa as a new for plant science**

Lycium anatolicum A.Baytop & R.R.Mill

Nonea macrantha (Riedl) A.Baytop

Nonea pulla (L.) DC. subsp. *scabrisquamata* A.Baytop

Roemeria carica A.Baytop

Silene anatolica Melzh. & A.Baytop

Gladiolus attilae Kit Tan, B.Mathew & A.Baytop

- **She collected the following new species during her excursions.**

Allium eldivanense N.Özhatay

Allium sivasicum N.Özhatay et Kollmann

Asphodeline damascena (Boiss.) Baker

subsp. *gigantea* E. Tuzlacı

Asphodeline damascena (Boiss.) Baker
 subsp. *ovoidea* E. Tuzlaci
Crocus speciosus Bieb. subsp. *ilgazensis* Mathew
Gypsophila baytopiorum Kit Tan
Iris purpureobracteata B. Mathew et T. Baytop
Stachys baytopiorum Kit Tan et Yıldız

• **The following species are named in her honour**

Allium baytopiorum Kollmann & N. Özhatay
Allium cyrilli Ten.
 subsp. *asumaniae* N. Özhatay & İ. Genç
Apera baytopiana Dogan
Asphodeline baytopiae Tuzlaci
Astracantha baytopiana (D.F. Chamb. & V.A. Matthews) Greuter & Burdet
Cirsium baytopiae P.H. Davis & Parris
Colchicum baytopiorum C.D. Brickell
Crocus asumaniae B. Mathew & T. Baytop
Crocus baytopiorum B. Mathew & T. Baytop
Fritillaria asumaniae Wallis & N. Özhatay
Galium baytopianum Ehrend. & Schönbr.-Tem.
Gypsophila baytopiorum Kit
Rosa 'ASUMAN' Kit Tan & Zielinski
Stachys baytopiorum Kit Tan & Yıldız
Tripleurospermum baytopianum E. Hossain

