

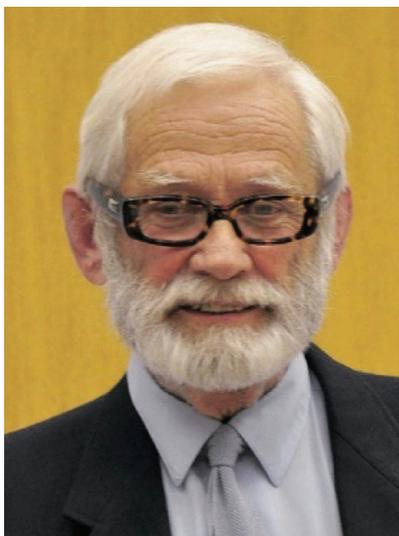
**The issue of Acta Biologica Slovenica honouring Professor Jože Štirn**

Številka revije Acta Biologica Slovenica posvečena prof. Jožetu Štirnu

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**Figure 1:** Professor Jože Štirn (1934-2011)

**Slika 1:** Profesor Jože Štirn (1934-2011)

This issue of Acta Biologica Slovenica is dedicated to the memory of Professor Jože Štirn, a retired senior scientist at the National Institute of Biology and retired Full Professor at the University of Ljubljana, and to honour his contributions to the field of marine phytoplanktology and the broader field of marine ecology. Professor Štirn passed away in August 2021; throughout his career as a researcher, teacher, mentor, colleague, and institute administrator, he greatly influenced the lives of all of those around him. We hope that this volume will serve not only as to honour the

memory of Professor Štirn, but also as a way to recognize his major influences and contributions to the fields of coastal marine ecology and related marine pollution.

Professor Štirn received his BSc from the University of Ljubljana in 1965, and his Ph.D. from the University of Ljubljana in 1968, both in Biology. Before being awarded his BS, he founded the Centre for Underwater Research and organised in 1960-61 an echoed biological and diving expedition to Ethiopia and Red Sea. Later, he founded the first Slovene Marine Re-

search Institution in Portorož. In 1968 he moved to the Department of Benthic Invertebrates at the Smithsonian Institution in Salambo (Tunis) and was an institution-member there until 1970. From that time onward he served as a head of the Marine Biology Station in the frame of the Institute of Biology of the University of Ljubljana. In 1980 he moved to IOC UNESCO as a head/member of the educational/research missions in Yemen, Cameroun and Aden. Professor Štirn was acting as a professor at the University of Nice in the period from 1988 to 1990 and later as an emeritus at the International University of Marine Studies in Cagne-sur-mer (France). He moved to the University of Sultan Qaboos in Oman in 1990. In Slovenia, he won awards (1972, 2012) for his research prowess and in 1992 he was elected an associate member of the European Academy of Environmental Affairs in Tubingen.

Professor Štirn was an internationally recognized scientist in the field of biological oceanography and marine ecology. He published approximately 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. The majority of these papers were published in international journals and proceedings. Professor Štirn was one of the first to extensively study the pelagic system of the northern Adriatic Sea, including basic physical and chemical oceanographic data, markedly influenced by riverine nutrient input, particularly from the Po River. This work later resulted in his Ph.D. thesis published by the Slovene Academy of Science and Arts. Later, he began a complex research project on the biological, physical and chemical aspects of coastal waters in the northern Adriatic Sea and particularly in the Gulf of Trieste, including riverine inflows, affected by wastewater pollution. He was one of the Mediterranean leaders investigating the consequences of anthropogenic eutrophication and chemical pollution of coastal waters, particularly by metals and pesticides. Professor Štirn was interested in just about everything that touched on the impact of marine eutrophication in the Adriatic area. He co-organised and participated in several Trans-Adriatic research expeditions conducted by the Yugoslav RV Andrija Mohorovičić sixty years after the first Austrian-Italian Adriatic expedition. He was known for his innovative experimental approach and design particularly evident in the

mesocosmos pollution experiment in the Lagoon of Strunjan. He was not only innovative but also meticulous with regards to his experimental and field endeavour. Due to his relevant scientific publications, UNEP/FAO engaged him to prepare a research project dealing with the ecological consequences of marine pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. Later, he did similar research in Oman studying biological oceanography and fishery biology of the Arabian Sea mostly in the frame of his Tethys project. A new genus of red algae *Stirnia prolifera* was dedicated to him. Professor Štirn was not only a good scientist and researcher, but also a teacher and mentor of young scientists. He organised (1971-74) the International Summer School of Marine Ecology in Strunjan sponsored by IOC UNESCO. He taught Oceanography, Marine Ecology and Fishery Biology at the University of Ljubljana for many years. His later educational endeavours were in universities in France and Oman. Professor Štirn served on numerous national and international committees, working groups, review panels and workshops over the years. He was a member of the editorial board of the *Revue internationale d'océanographie médicale* for many years.

His passion for science was equal to his enthusiasm for life. He had a well-known gift for storytelling and his ability to find something humorous in every situation. In describing Professor Štirn, he was a man of many talents: a naturalist, oceanographer, limnologist, marine phytoplanktologist and ecologist as well as scuba diver, and he could have been successful in almost any endeavour he undertook. The papers in this special issue were written by his colleagues and former students and cover a wide range of topics, many of which were central to the work he was involved in over his lifetime. The science contained in these papers is a reflection of his scientific legacy especially in the fields of biological oceanography, marine ecology and fishery biology of the northern Adriatic Sea, and in particular related to anthropogenic eutrophication of coastal waters.

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