

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. M. Moser**  
**Foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine**

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The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences was founded in Kiev on November 27, 1918. The establishment and the organisation of the Academy of Sciences was a landmark event that recognised the development of scientific traditions in the Ukraine over a period of many centuries. In the 16th and 17th century well-known scientific centres included the Ostrog-Greek-Slav and the Kiev Brother's Schools. In the 18th century the Kiev-Mogilyanian Academy was a major scientific centre for the entire Slav world.

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences is an independent, self-governed organisation that is maintained by the State. The Academy of Sciences supports basic scientific research, establishes scientific councils, societies or associations, trains highly skilled personnel, maintains archives for the preservation of scientific and artistic works and publishes articles and books through the „Naukova Dumka“ Publishers. In addition, the Academy promotes and organises scientific congresses, conferences, and meetings.

Today the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences embraces more than 130 scientific institutions, and approximately 90 research stations, experimental enterprises, design and technological organisations and computer centres. About eighty-thousand people are employed by the Academy, including seventeen thousand scientists and 475 academicians and corresponding members.

During the last two years, following the independence of the Ukraine, 52 prominent foreign scientists have been elected as members of the Academy. These individuals are world famous scientists who work closely with Ukrainian colleagues. In 1991-1992 a number of scientists were elected to the Academy including well known biologists such as A. Burgen (England), J.-P. Ebel and M. Grunberg-Manago (France), Xin Yuan Lin (China), M. Zenk (Germany) and M. Moser (Austria).

Prof. M. Moser became a member of the Academy in November 1992 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to mycology and his work to further mycological research and education. Prof. Moser is the first mycologist to be elected by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. On March 18, 1993, the President of the Academy of Sciences, B. Paton, presented Prof. Moser with a diploma and welcomed him as a Foreign Member of the Academy. Following the ceremony Prof. Moser gave a lecture entitled „Fungal growth and fructification under stress conditions“ at the annual session of the Department of General Biology, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (March 22, 1993). The text of the lecture is published in the Ukrainian Botanical Journal, N3, 50: 5-12 (1993).

Both the former Soviet Union and the Ukraine played a significant role in the fate of M. Moser. At the end of 1943, M. Moser was called for military service in Austria. In the spring 1945, M. Moser was taken prisoner of war by the Soviet troops in Yugoslavia, and until the end of 1947 he was detained in the Crimea (region of Sevastopol and Balaklava).

Since 1986 Prof. Moser has worked closely with members of the N. G. Kholodny Institute of Botany, part of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. This year marks the beginning of joint projects to study and compare the higher Basidiomycetes in the mountain regions of the Ukraine and the Austrian Alps. During the past years Prof. Moser visited Kiev several times and lectured to Ukrainian botanists and mycologists. On one of these visits, M. Moser was elected a honorary member of the Ukrainian Botanical Society.

In 1992 M. Moser made an excursion to the Crimea to study the Agaricales s.l. in the Crimean mountains, an area where there had been little mycological exploration. During the excursion he recorded about 70 new, rare or unreported species of agarics and boletes for the Ukraine and/or the Republic of Crimea. These included *Xerocomus pruinosus* (Fr.: Hök) Qué. ss. Watl., *Collybia alkalivirens* Sing., *Leucopaxillus salmonifolius* Mos. & Lamoure, *Melanoleuca polioleuca* (Fr.: Fr.) Kühn. & R. Mre. ss. Boekhout, *Lyophyllum favrei* R. Haller & R. Haller, *Xerula causssei* R. Mre., *Pholiotina pygmaeoaffinis* (Fr.) Sing., and *Crepidotus sinuosus* Hesl. & A. H. Smith (see Ukrainian Botanical Journal 50, N4, 1993).

Excursions to the Crimean mountains, to the southern coast of the Crimea and to localities near Sevastopol and Balaklava reminded Prof. Moser of the years he was there as the prisoner of war. During his numerous meetings with the workers of Crimean scientific institutions (A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, Nikitsky Botanical Garden, Ukrainian Research Institute of Viticulture and Wine-Making) Prof. Moser expressed his thanks to those Ukrainians and Russians who helped him to survive the hard

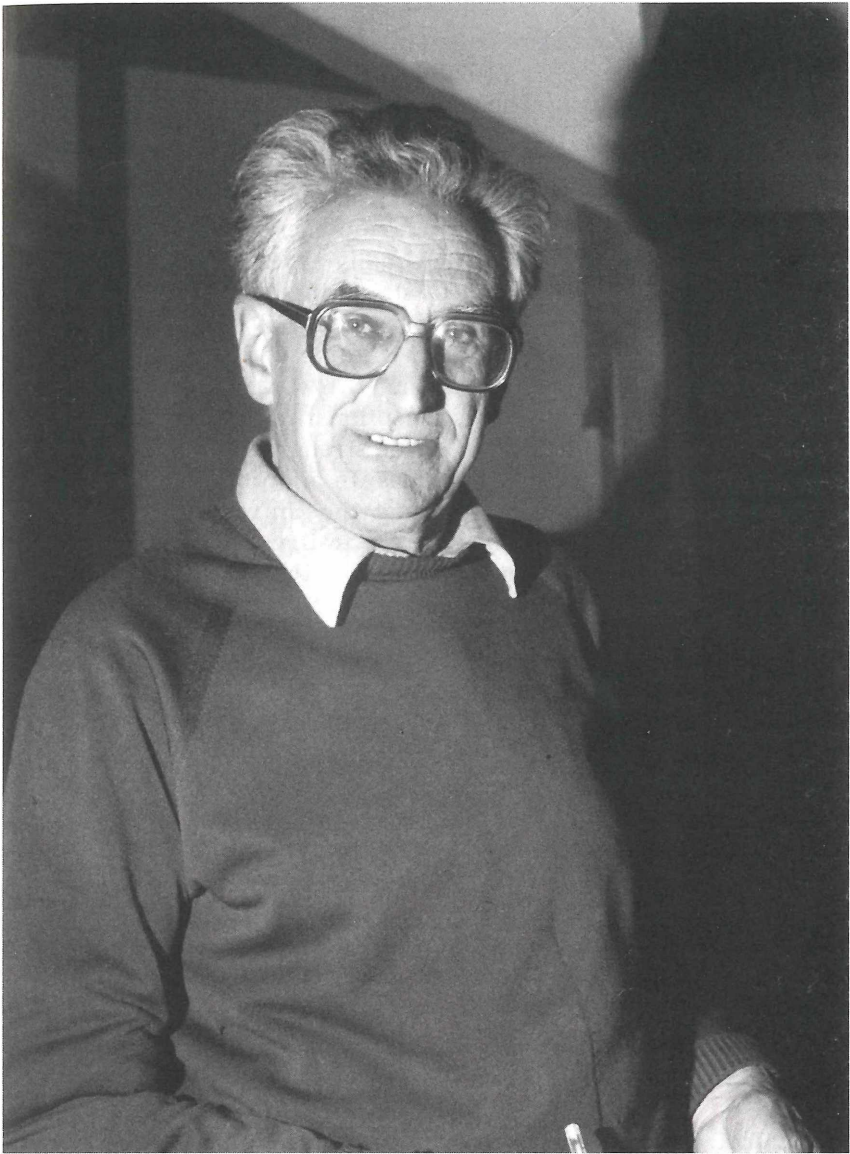


Fig. 1. – Prof. Dr. M. Moser.

years in captivity. As a prisoner of war between 1945 to 1947, M. Moser took part in the reconstruction of the buildings of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas in Sevastopol that were devastated during the War. He recounted his life in the Crimea during and after World War II. It is remarkable that Prof. Moser is still

familiar with the flora and mycobiota of the Crimea and he can remember the Russian names of many local plants.

M. Moser is not only a prominent and gifted scientist but also an intellectual, well educated person, with a deep interest in the fine arts and classical music. His dedication to mycological research and education is exceptional. Today, in difficult economic times, Prof. Moser helps the scientists in the N. G. Kholodny Institute of Botany by supplying computers, typewriters and chemical reagents to assist them with their studies. I have personally experienced his hospitality and exceptional support of scientists during visits to his home and during several congresses, meetings and mycological expeditions in Austria, Germany, Hungary and the Ukraine.

Prof. Moser is known throughout the world for his expertise in agaric and bolete taxonomy. His exceptional knowledge of these fungi and his many publications have strongly influenced modern taxonomic concepts in the Agaricales. In addition, during his many years as a distinguished professor at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, Prof. Moser has successfully trained and educated many generations of students and scholars in the systematics, biology, ecology and geographic distribution of fungi.