

## **Lothar Geitler**

### **on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1989**

It is an outstanding event when a scientist of the highest reputation and international distinction can be congratulated on his 90th birthday. The Institute of Botany, University of Vienna, is fortunate and honoured in being able to convey heartiest congratulations to its former head, Prof. Dr LOTHAR GEITLER. Numerous scientific colleagues from home and abroad, former collaborators and students want to pay their deepest respects to Prof. GEITLER by contributing to the present and the next issue of *Plant Systematics and Evolution*.

Prof. GEITLER is a modest man who has shunned the glaring light of publicity. The editors, therefore, feel they are right in not describing in detail his curriculum vitae and academic career (some data and his main research fields – cyanophytes, diatoms, and karyology – have already been addressed in the *Festschriften* for his 70th and 80th birthdays (*Österr. Bot. Z.* **116**, 1969, and *Plant Syst. Evol.* **131**, 1979). However, they wish to honour the scientific work, which has increased still further in the last decade (a list of publications that have appeared since 1979 is presented below) and refer to it in what they hope is an adequate and useful manner. They have tried to make his work fully accessible to contemporary and future scientists by presenting a kind of index to the subjects and taxa treated in his immense output of publications.

This compilation demonstrates impressively the enormous width of his research activities. There is hardly a group of organisms that has not attracted GEITLER's quick eye and critical genius. The spectrum of his papers extends from parasitic myxobacteria to the inflorescence morphology of mimosoids, from the ecology and systematics of blue-green algae to the endomitotic polyploidization of plant and animal tissues, and from the life history of diatoms to the reproduction biology of orchids. We glance over the work of one of the last universal biologists.

The authors of the following papers, the members of the Institute of Botany of the University of Vienna, Springer-Verlag Wien New York, and the editors convey the heartiest congratulations to Prof. Dr L. GEITLER. The work of his life will provide a basis, set a standard, and give important stimuli to future generations of biologists.

The Editors