OBITUARY

PROFESSOR JANINA MIKOŁAJSKA (1929–2007) – HONORARY MEMBER
OF THE POLISH PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On June 15, 2007, passed away Professor Janina Mikołajska D.Sc. (Agr.) (age 78), an academic teacher and scientist at the University of Warmia and Mazury, in Olsztyn, a person of great merit.

Professor Mikołajska was born on April 22, 1929, in Boczkowice (Kielce province, central Poland) in a family of intellectuals. She attended primary school in Łódź and during World War II secret education courses in the city of Kielce. In 1948, after graduating from the secondary school in Włoszczowa, started her studies in the Toruń Nicolaus Copernicus University (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences). There she graduated in 1952 as magister philosophiae (Master of Philosophy) in botany. Her master thesis in mycology was supervised by Professor Wanda Zabłocka. Already during studies she started her work in Research Centre for Applied Biology of the University, in Koniczynka near Toruń.

From 1955 on, her life was bound with the Olsztyn University of Agriculture and Technology (later incorporated into the University of Warmia and Mazury), where she worked till retirement in 1996 (from Plant Protection Department, Laboratory of Plant Pathology) as research assistant, assistant professor, associated professor and full professor. She earned her Ph.D. in 1964 in the Toruń Nicolaus Copernicus University (Faculty of

Janina Mikołajska (1929–2007)
(photo by M. Rataj-Guranowska)
Biology and Earth Sciences). Her supervisor was Professor Wanda Zablocka and the dissertation was entitled "Anatomical relations in different cultivars of *Hordeum distichon* L. infected by *Erysiphe graminis hordei* Marchal".

The degree of *doctor habilitatus* was granted on her by the Agriculture Faculty Council, Olsztyn University of Agriculture and Technology, basing on habilitation thesis: “Studies of parasitic fungus infection of grasses, depending on ecological changes in meadows of Łyna River Valley” in 1974. She was granted the title of associate professor in 1989.

In the Olsztyn University of Agriculture and Technology, Professor Mikołajska held (among other) positions of director of the Plant Protection Institute and head of the Plant Protection Department.

Scientific interests of Professor Janina Mikołajska focused on mycology and phytopathology problems. She worked on diseases of fodder grasses, cereals, legume crops and participated in a project on potato diseases under supervision of Professor Helena Wojciechowska.

The works of professor Janina Mikołajska have contributed immensely to phytopathological literature and have been very useful in agricultural practice.

Investigations on the cause of poor emergence of legume plants in early spring and complex research on field bean protection against diseases were new for the time and of particular importance.

Professor Mikołajska had a great scientific output: 81 items, including 51 original works, three books and summaries of course lectures. She was tutor of numerous master’s degree theses and of four doctoral theses. Two of her doctor students were granted title of professor. For her excellent work and achievements, Professor Janina Mikołajska was awarded state and ministry medals: the Golden Cross of Merit (1976), The Knight’s Cross of Polonia Restituta (1983) and The Medal of National Education Committee (1996).

Professor Janina Mikołajska was an active member of scientific societies: the Polish Botanical Society and The Polish Phytopathological Society, in which she chaired the Olsztyn Division and which granted her the title of honorary member in 1999.

In 1981–1989 she was member of Plant Protection Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

After 41 years in the University, Professor Mikołajska stays in the memory of her co-workers and students as a noble person of high ethical and professional standards, characterized by discipline and professional attitude to science, as profession and passion. She was a person of recognized authority that created scientific atmosphere around – demanding good work from researchers and students and very helpful at the same time.

She will be remembered as a noble and knowledgeable person, an outstanding professional and a dedicated teacher true to timeless ideals.

*The list of publications of Professor Janina Mikołajska was published in *Phytopathologia Polonica*, volume 32 (2004).*

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