

In memoriam Dr. Aleksandar Mikić (1974-2021)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear colleague and fellow editor Dr. Aleksandar Mikić.

He had excelled as a crop breeder at the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops for 15 years developing substantial number of varieties before embarking on a new path of independent researcher. He found appreciation for grain legume crops which exceeded purely breeder's interests. Researching and breeding pulse crops and brassicas, he immersed himself into linguistic, etymological, lexicological, historical, ethnobotanical, and archaeobotanical considerations of the crops, which culminated in his Lexicon of Pulse Crops. His research interests often included intercropping, genetic resources and crop wild relatives, neglected and underutilised crops, beautiful vavilovia and metascience articles.



For a decade he served as an editor in our journal Ratarstvo & Povrtarstvo, often contributing with his unique articles. He was always on the forefront of research excellence and integrity, a driving force of improvement and quality assurance in journal publishing and indexing. Additionally, he was a talented visual artist and skilled logo designer who produced the journal's first logo (showed down left).

He was an active member and contributor to the journal Grain Legumes, published by the European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP) from 1992 to 2011, and Legume Perspectives, published by the International Legume Society (ILS) since 2013. Cheerful, good-humoured and selfless, he networked easily within global research community, engaging others to partake in a football cup within a conference, and made many amicable witty jokes on his companions and Chuck Norris alike.

With his inquisitive and insightful mind, he invested peculiar passion and distinctive drive in numerous activities he undertook – he was a prolific author, researcher, agronomist, patriot, poet, philosopher, humanist, phytolinguist, translator, illustrator, historian, polyglot. He published delightful Haiku Poems About Legumes, critically acclaimed translation of The Lay of Aotrou and Itroun into Serbian, and incredible translations of Asterix and Obelix comics into many obscure languages and dialects.

A truly extraordinary human being, he will be dearly missed and remembered.

Editors



The first version of logo printed on papers published from 2010 to 2014.



Honouring the memory of Dr. Aleksandar Mikić, this issue journal uses his second improved version of logo in header of all manuscripts, which, some time ago, he explained: "the drawing was made in rough lines, depicting wood carving; the chosen font resembles the style of medieval Slavic handwritten manuscripts celebrating the heritage of the journal's country of origin; the universal plant is the symbol of our journal without any distinctive flowers or fruits, but with three open books instead of leaves, representing three issues a year; chernozem in which the plant is rooted is the wealth of knowledge presented by English alphabet letters since the journal publishes manuscripts in English; the overcast clouds are decorative, but also correspond to quality check, such as plagiarism detecting tools and peer review. Following the official recommendation to change the journal title abbreviation, the Cyrillic font and English version have been replaced".