

This issue of Botanica Serbica is dedicated to Professor Draga Simić to mark the occasion of her 80th birthday. Her career began as a researcher in plant physiology at the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac" of the Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade. Having worked for many years in different institutions in the world, Draga Simic acquired profound scientific knowledge that along with her enthusiasm for teaching encouraged her to establish the new Chair of Microbiology at the Institute of Botany. As the first professor of the new curriculum of microbiology at the Faculty of Biology and pioneer in DNA repair and antimutagenesis studies in Serbia, she inspired the research interests of her teaching associates, collaborators and students. Contributions reporting the results of some recent scientific investigations of Draga's friends, colleagues and collaborators are presented in this special issue.

Prof. Dr. Branka Stevanović, Editor-in-Chief