

TRAIAN SĂVULESCU
(1889 – 1963)



Traian Săvulescu was born on the 2nd of February 1889 in Râmnicu Sărat. He was the third child of his family. His father, Petrache, was a merchant, and his mother, Maria, was a house wife. He attended the primary and secondary school in his native town, followed by the 'C. Negruzzi' boarding school in Iași and the 'B. P. Hașdeu' in Buzău (the senior year). In 1907 became a student of the Medical School of the University of Bucharest. During that period of time he attended the classes of the Faculty of Sciences, that he graduated in 1912, leaving the Medical School. After graduation, he joined the Laboratory of Vegetal Morphology and Taxonomy of the Botany Institute in Bucharest. He started the doctoral programme under professor M. Vlădescu's scientific guidance. In 1916 he presented his PhD thesis entitled '*Study on the Campanula L. species of the Heterophyllae that grow in Romania*', and became a doctor in Botany. Traian Săvulescu was appointed a full professor within the Department of Vegetal Taxonomy and Pathology in the Superior School of Agriculture from Herăstrău in 1919, therefore he gave a thorough approach to agricultural matters. Traian Săvulescu is considered the founder of the Phytopathology School in Romania. He was appointed Head of the Vegetal Pathology Department of the Faculty of Sciences (University of Bucharest) in 1928, and the Head of the Phytopathology Unit of the Romanian Institute for Agricultural Sciences in 1929 (RIAS, founded in în 1927). During 1948 and 1961 he was the manager of this institute. His remarkable contributions to Botany and Phytopathology, to the structuring and promoting plant preservation in Romania, highly recommended him to be elected a corresponding member (in 1936), and a full member and Executive Secretary of the Romanian Academy in 1948. He was the President of the Romanian Academy between 1948 and 1959. He served as a deputy in the Parliament, then as a minister, and a member of many foreign scientific associations. He published an impressive number of articles, books and treaties. He was a pioneer and subsequently a Chief Editor of the monumental work 'Flora of the Popular Republic of Romania' (13 volumes issued between 1952 and 1976). The Romanian Academy was restructured in 1948, as the Academy of Sciences was dissolved and included in the former one. A large number of illustrious scholars were excluded therefore from the new academic institution. To make ammends for all the excluded scholars, Traian Săvulescu founded the Association (the Academy, nowadays) of the Romanian Scientists in March 1956. The great scientist passed away on the 29th of March 1963.