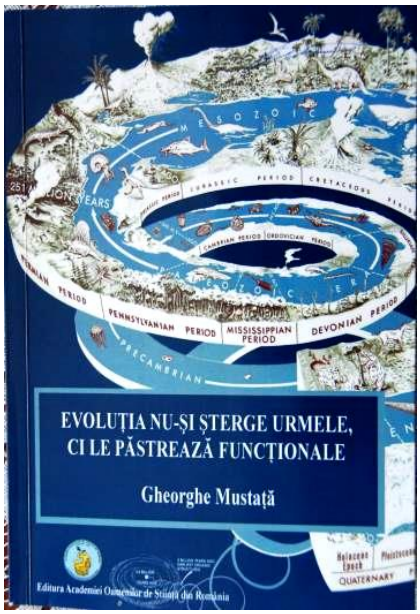
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Grădina Botanică "Alexandru Borza"
Cluj-Napoca



Gheorghe MUSTAŢĂ, 2015, ***Evoluţia nu-şi şterge urmele, ci le păstrează funcţionale***. ***Evolution does not wipe out its traces, but keeps them functional***. Ed. Acad. Oamenilor de Ştiinţă, Bucureşti, 184 pp. – Romanian version, 186 pp. – English version, 96 figures (the majority in colour).

A Professor Emeritus of the "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iaşi, Mr. Gh. Mustaţă continues to offer us (and even delight us with) sources of knowledge, meditation and debate regarding the major problems of contemporary biology, and more.

In this book, the author develops an idea previously launched (Mustaţă, 2003), through the formulation of a new fundamental law of evolution: "***evolution does not wipe out its traces, but keeps them functional***", which he considers to be "*... just as important as the Thermodynamics Second Law ...*" (p. 181).

In the presentation of this book, Prof. Stoica P. Godeanu states that Prof. Mustaţă's work "*is a real chase for the world's priority*" (p. 20), a point of view with which we do not completely agree, because as we have already mentioned, Professor Mustaţă launched this idea in an article as early as 2003. Over a decade later, the author provides new and varied arguments, which reinforces our conviction that it is not a question of "chase", but the result of long mature meditation, of a vast sum of accumulated and selected knowledge, and certainly, of debates generated by the previous article.

The arguments that Prof. Mustaţă provides this time refer to the digestive tract of the *Turbellaria* group, to arterial arches in Vertebrates, to the coexistence of prokaryotes and eukaryotes, of protozoa and metazoa, to the evolution of living matter and the evolution of chemical elements, to biological progress and morpho-physiological progress, etc.

The chapter on the *World of crystals* is spectacular and extensive, and at the same time extremely interesting through the comparisons with similar structures in the living world, as well as through examples illustrating the spiral, considered by the author as an "*ideal model*".

At the end of the book, referring to opinions according to which evolutionism is in a deadlock, Prof. Mustaţă states that ”*The Evolutionism is not deadlocked...*” (p. 168), ”*Planet Earth holds hidden in its bowls all evolutionary proofs. It is like a giant book from* **Mendel's Library**... ” (p.169), and that ”*The tracks of the evolution are shrined for us only to learn how to read them correctly*” (p. 180).

It is precisely to such a ”correct reading” of this book that we invite our readers, whether teachers, researchers or students, and we assure them that they will not regret the time devoted to this reading, at the end of which they will be spiritually much richer.

And because this year Prof. Gh. Mustaţă turned a symmetrical age (symmetry about which he wrote), even with a biblical connotation (his ecological decalogue being well known), on behalf of the botanists of Cluj, we wish him *Happy Birthday* 77 times!

Vasile CRISTEA