Received: 2021-10-10
Accepted: 2021-11-15
Available online: 2021-12-28

DOI: 10.2478/hepo-2021-0028

In memoriam of Professor Waldemar Buchwald (1962–2020) on the first anniversary of his passing

Professor Waldemar Buchwald was born on August 26th, 1962 in Poznań (Poland). He obtained the degree in Environmental Biology at the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. As an intern he started working at the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences (Adam Mickiewicz University), and then he joined the Research Institute of Medicinal Plants in Poznań (currently Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants – National Research Institute) as an assistant. Working in the Department of Botany under the management of Prof. Jan Kozłowski, he progressed through his academic career, even as the organisational structure of the Institute changed, and departments were renamed. In 1998 he received a PhD at the Faculty of Horticulture, Agricultural Academy in Poznań (currently Poznań University of Life Sciences) based on a dissertation entitled “Biological and phytochemical characteristics of *Betonica officinalis* L. and *Salvia miltiorrhiza* Bunge in order to introduce them into cultivation”. Since 1999 he managed the Laboratory of Ecology, which was the part of the Department of Botany.

In 2002, Professor Waldemar Buchwald took over as the head of the Department of Botany, after the retirement of Prof. Jan Kozłowski. The Department of Botany and the Department of Breeding and Agricultural Technology were merged in 2006, to become the Department of Botany, Breeding and Agricultural Technology with Prof. Buchwald as its head. Then, after a merger of the Research Institute of Medicinal Plants and the Institute of Natural Fibres, he became the head of Branch of Medicinal Plants (2009–2010), and later, a medicinal plants

coordinator (2010–2011) at the newly created Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants. In 2014, he received habilitation degree in agricultural sciences at the Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (Poznań University of Life Sciences) with a work entitled “Red sage (*Salvia miltiorrhiza* Bunge) – study of introduction to cultivation, effectiveness of obtaining biologically active compounds and biological activity of extracts”. In 2018, he became a professor of the Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants. He remained the head of the Department of Botany, Breeding and Agricultural Technology of Medicinal Plants until his passing.

Professor Waldemar Buchwald was a prominent expert in medicinal plants and herbalism. He carried out numerous scientific projects, ranging from agricultural technology of medicinal plants, protection of their natural resources, seed biology, taxonomy, morphological and phytochemical variability of selected species, as well as their biological activity. In collaboration with other research institutions, Professor took part in pharmacological studies of *Salvia miltiorrhiza*, *S. przewalskii*, *Echinacea purpurea*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Rh. kirilowii*, *Platycodon grandiflorum* as well as *Chelidonium majus*. He spent a lot of his time and energy on the Garden of Medicinal Plants and beautiful old park in Plewiska near Poznań. Professor also curated the collection of rare and protected medicinal plants.

His scientific interest was mainly dedicated to *S. miltiorrhiza*. Professor Buchwald initiated the research into red sage and continued it throughout his career, analysing biology of this plant, ac-

climatisation and cultivation in Polish climate and soil conditions, micropropagation, phytochemistry and pharmacology. He was an author or co-author of over 300 scientific papers, popular science articles, conference materials, books and chapters of scientific monographs. Waldemar Buchwald was an outstanding specialist and populariser of herbalism in Poland. He organised numerous herbal courses, conferences (including the International Congress of Polish Herbal Committee), conducting lectures, giving interviews etc. For many years, Professor sat on the Scientific Board of the Institute, and from 2009 until his passing, he was the Editor-in-Chief of *Herba Polonica*, a quarterly published by the Institute. He was also a member of the Editorial Council of *Postępy Fitoterapii* journal (*Advances in Phytotherapy*). From 2005 to 2020, Waldemar Buchwald was a member of the management of Polish Herbal Committee, acting as a vice-president of this association in 2009–2020. He was also a president of the Section of Phytotherapy of Polish Medical Association and the chairman of the Section of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums of the Polish Botanical

Society. In turn, in 2010–2013 he was a member of the National Council for the Protection of Plant Genetic Resources.

Professor Waldemar Buchwald was a creative scientist, pursuing numerous interests and fields of study of medicinal plants. He was awarded a Silver Cross of Merit by the President of the Republic of Poland in 2010 for his academic accomplishments and work at the Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants. Waldemar Buchwald was also awarded Honorary Badge “Meritorious for Agriculture” and a medal *In Plantas Magna Latet Virtus* by the Polish Herbal Committee for his career achievements and for tirelessly promoting Polish herbalism. For us, Professor was first and foremost a good colleague, a kind boss and a dear friend. He has gone suddenly and far too soon, still as active as ever, full of ideas and plans for the future.

Professor Waldemar Buchwald passed away on the 19th of November 2020. His final resting place is the Junikowo Cemetery in Poznań. We say goodbye to Professor with great sadness, certain that his memory will remain in our hearts.

LIST OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED BY PROF. WALDEMAR BUCHWALD FROM 2009 TO 2021

Articles in the journals with Impact Factor

1. Skopińska-Różewska, E, Bychawska M, Białas-Chromiec B, Sommer E, Furmanowa M, Mrozikiewicz PM, Buchwald W, Mielcarek M, Siwicki AK. The *in vivo* effect of *Rhodiola kirilowii* extracts on blood granulocytes metabolic activity in mice. *Cent Eur J Immunol* 2010; 35(1):20-24. IF 0.451
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3. Skopińska-Różewska E, Sokolnicka I, Siwicki AK, Stankiewicz W, Dąbrowski MP, Buchwald W, Krajewska-Patan A, Mielcarek S, Mścisz A, Furmanowa M. Dose-dependent *in vivo* effect of *Rhodiola* and *Echinacea* on the mitogen-induced lymphocyte proliferation in mice. *Pol J Vet Sci* 2011; 14(2):265-272. IF 0.565
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5. Buchwald W, Mikołajczak PŁ, Krajewska-Patan A, Dreger M, Górską-Paukšta M, Szulc M, Polcyn P, Pioruńska-Mikołajczak A, Mielcarek S, Czerny B, Mrozikiewicz PM, Bobkiewicz-Kozłowska T. Involvement of the different extracts from roots of *Salvia miltiorrhiza* Bunge on acute hypobaric hypoxia-induced cardiovascular effects in rats – preliminary report. *Pol J Vet Sci* 2012; 15(4):693-701. IF 0.570
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 9. Zubek S, Błaszczkowski J, Buchwald W. Fungal root endophyte associations of medicinal plants. Nova Hedwigia 2012; 94(3-4):525-540. IF 0.809
 10. Adamczak A, Opala B, Gryszczyńska A, Buchwald W. Content of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in the leaves of coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara* L.) in Poland. Acta Soc Bot Pol 2013; 82(4):289-293. IF 1.195
 11. Nawrot R, Barylski J, Nowicki G, Broniarczyk J, Buchwald W, Goździcka-Józefiak A. Plant antimicrobial peptides. Folia Microbiol 2014; 59:181-196. IF 1.145
 12. Zdanowski R, Lewicki S, Sikorska K, Żmigrodzka M, Buchwald W, Wilczak J, Skopińska-Różewska E. The influence of aqueous and hydro-alcoholic extracts of roots and rhizomes of *Rhodiola kirilowii* on the course of pregnancy in mice. Cent Eur J Immunol 2014; 39(4):471-475. IF 0.280
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Articles in the journals without Impact Factor

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 12. Forycka A, Buchwald W. Zróżnicowanie mącznicy lekarskiej w Polsce Północno-Zachodniej. [Variability of bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (L.) Spreng. in the north-west region of Poland]. *Zesz Probl Post Nauk Rol* 2010; 555:181-189. [in Polish]
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