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**In memoriam Professor Dr. Istvan Karpati (1924-1989)**

On the 4th day of the field trip through Poland, the International Phytogeographic Excursion suddenly lost one of its most prominent and active members: Istvan Karpati. He was an outstanding geobotanist with a broad spectrum of interests including synecology, bioproductivity, indicator values of vascular plants, periodical rhythms of plant community, nature conservancy. In his more than 200 papers he dealt particularly with the flora and vegetation of Hungary and the Balkan Peninsula. He studied phytosociology, bioproductivity and ecology of flooded forests of the Danube and other rivers, as well as of the wetlands of Balaton and Kis-Balaton. Prof. Karpati was faithfully accompanied by his wife Vera in most field trips and in many investigations. They worked closely together complementing each other. He enjoyed an international reputation and his works have been widely quoted.

The brief note here would have not been complete without mentioning the warm and outgoing personality of Professor Karpati. He shall be sorely missed by his many friends from Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and other countries.

His enthusiastic attitude towards field research was well known; it seems symbolic that he died carrying twigs of *Betula oycoviensis* while happily returning from a visit to the locality of this rare endemic taxon.

May he rest in peace.