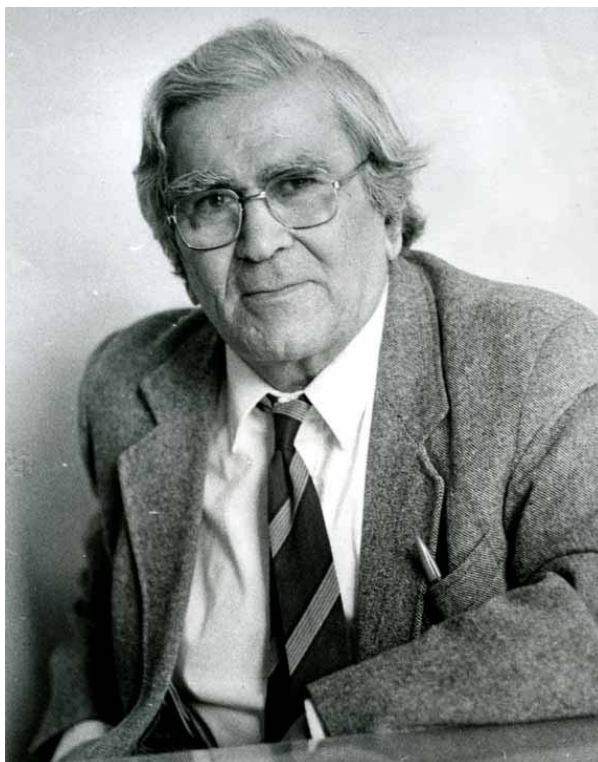


Obituary

Academician Armen Leonovich Takhtajan (1910-2009)



The sudden demise of Academician Armen Leonovich Takhtajan, a Soviet-Armenian botanist on November 13, 2009 was a great sock to the global botanists. Born on June 10, 1910, Armen Takhtajan remained one of the most important figures in 20th century, and possessed a distinguished academic and administrative career.

Armen Takhtajan graduated in 1932, headed different institutions and served as Professor of the Leningrad State University. Armen Takhtajan worked at the Komarov Botanical Institute in Petersburg, Russia (then Leningrad, USSR) where he developed his 1940 classification scheme for Flowering Plants which emphasized phylogenetic relationships between plants. His system become known to botanists in the late 1950s after he began a collaboration with the prominent American botanist Arthur Cronquist.

Armen Takhtajan was a member of the Academy of Sciences of Russia (previously USSR), as well as a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences since 1971. He was also the academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, the president of the Soviet All-Union Botanical Society (1973) and the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (1975), member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Literature (1971), the German Academy of Naturalists "Leopoldina" (1972) and other scientific societies.

He has authored many books and articles including:

- A. Takhtajan (1969). *Flowering Plants: Origin and Dispersal*. Otto Koeltz Science Publishers, Koenigstein, Germany.
- A. Takhtajan, Th.J. Crovello and A. Cronquist (1986). *Floristic Regions of the World*. University of California Press, USA.
- A. Takhtajan (1991). *Evolutionary Trends in Flowering Plants*. Columbia University Press, NY, USA.
- A. Takhtajan (1997). *Diversity and Classification of Flowering Plants*. Columbia University Press, NY, USA.
- A. Takhtajan (2009). *Flowering Plants*. Springer Verlag.

Apart from having been a popular teacher, he was a conscientious researcher and has produced several Ph.D. researchers all over the world including two from Nepal. Professor Ram P. Chaudhary completed Ph.D. in 1988 and Professor Krishna Kumar Shrestha in 1993.

The standard author abbreviation **Takht.** is used to indicate as the author when citing a botanical name.