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Sobhy Ibrahim Ismail Abdel-Hafez (1945–2018)

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Professor Sobhy Abdel-Hafez is a great loss to mycology in Egypt and Middle East region. He born on 17 June 1945 in Palestine, graduated from Assiut University in 1967 and gained his PhD there in 1974.

In 1974, he was appointed as a Lecturer in Botany at Assiut University, where he remained for the rest of his career prior to his retirement in 2001 when he was appointed Emeritus Professor.

He sadly passed away on 1 November 2018 at the age of 72. We feel honoured to have known such a warm and inspirational figure, who demonstrated through his life just how much can be achieved by just one person with sufficient motivation and vision as Ahmed M. Abdel-Azeem (President of Arab Society for Fungal Conservation) mentioned. Really, it was a great shock of sadness for all students and mycotaxonomists to hear that Professor Abdel Hafez passed away.

Abdel-Hafez was a larger-than life personality. He had a commanding presence, which cannot easily be put in words. Like anyone or anything great, there is no substitute for the original. His love of science, love of people and scientists, and love of life only begin to describe the totality of the amazing man.

I am continually inspired by Abdel Hafez's brilliant and extraordinary mind and massive body of work and wish to acknowledge his overarching influence on my own research career.

His legacy will be the knowledge and the scientific experience he transplanted in his students, which I trust will go from strength to strength in the years ahead and become an increasingly important resource around the world".

His outstanding research capacity, his extensive knowledge, and his invaluable and good-spirited advice have been missed greatly by his students and colleagues not only in the Department of Botany, at Assiut University, but also and in mycological research communities around the world.

The concluding words on Abdel Hafez are fitting as an epitaph for himself where his mission has many dimensions that together formed the legacy of a great man in search of a better world... his life's work remains as a monumental book of knowledge that shall continue to be a beacon of enlightenment.

Sobhy was a member in the Botany Permanent Scientific Committee for Promotion of Professors &

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Assistant Professors, Supreme Council of Universities, Egypt (1989-2012), a member in the Botany Permanent Scientific Committee for Promotion of Professors & Assistant Professors, Al-Azhar University Egypt (2006-2011).

He published more than 130 papers (Please check the supplementary materials) and supervised more than 27 M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis in the field of Microbiology. His work included taxonomy, ecology, plant diseases, myconanotechnology, mycotoxins. He studied fungi in Saudi Arabia and Syria. He designed and supervised many postgraduate theses carried by students from Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

Abdel-Hafez has also authored or contributed to several papers on fungal taxonomy. In 2008, he co-authored an extensive description of the *Fusarium* species in Egypt . Also, in 2016 he co-authored an extensive work on metal nanoparticles synthesized from fungi are defined as mycogenic nanoparticles and using it in bicontrol.

May his soul rest in peace, Abdel Hafez will still to the end as a bright star of the sky of worldwide mycology and taxonomy. He is a really great sscientist. His advice is always our direction in life

Further readings

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