



Dr. Ashraf Tawfiq Soliman

23 Dec. 1961-23 Jan. 2023

Dr. Ashraf Tawfiq Soliman was born on December 23, 1961 in Sharkia Governorate, and he is the eldest among his brothers. He spent his early youth between Egypt and Libya with his family. He returned to Egypt to obtain a secondary school and join the Faculty of Science, Cairo University. As he was excelling during school days, he continued his brilliance at Cairo University to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Botany from the Botany Department, Faculty of Science, Cairo University in 1983. His distinction qualification promoted him to be appointed in the same college in 1984 as Demonstrator. He gained a Master's degree in the plant ecology under the supervision of Professor Dr. Al-Kassas and Professor Dr. Nabil El-Hadidi (may God have mercy on all of them). The title of his master thesis was "Plant life in the area of South Tahrir" to obtain his master in 1990. During his work in master thesis he got fund from UNESCO-MAB program promotes him to complete his work.

Then he registered a PhD in plant Ecology with the same supervisors and the thesis was titled "Studies on plant life in newly reclaimed areas in the region west of the Delta". He obtained a doctorate in plant Science (Plant Ecology) in 1996; in co-

supervision with the Berlin Technical University-Germany. He continued to work in the same college until he was promoted to the rank of assistant professor of Plant Ecology and Flora in 2016. He also applied for promotion to a professorship on September 6, 2021, his promotion was approved as a professor in Taxonomy and Flora, at the College Council on November 12, 2022. He also published many research articles in local and international specialized journals. His research trend was characterized by innovation, both in the selection of study areas, as well as in the treatment of biostatistics on the results, as well as the use of numerical taxonomy approach.

Through his academic career (1984-2022) he taught many courses to the underground students particularly: Ecology, Flora, Taxonomy, Morphology, Anatomy, Economic Botany, Archegoniate, Medicinal plants, and Vegetation. He also participated in teaching the master's courses as Specialized Field Studies, and Applied Floristic studies He was also working as an adjunct professor at Fayium and Bani Suef Universities from 1998-2009. Since 2014 he has been adjunct to Misr International University (MIU), teaching Environmental Awareness. He is a co-author in three scientific books, two published by Lap Lambert Academic publishing-Germany in 2014 and 2016 and one published by Saaebrucken, publishing, Germany.

He was the managing editor of *Taekholmia* (An international journal of plant systematic and related subjects, <https://taec.journals.ekb.eg/>), published from Cairo University Herbarium in Association with the Egyptian Academy of Sciences. He is also a co-manager for the Scientific Forum on Taxonomy and Genetics for 50 webinars from 21.2.2021 to 9.1.2023 (<https://youtube.com/channel/UCxxW1yq9Rm0avUUSPVFSQ>). He supervised three masters and two four PhDs thesis at Cairo University and other Egyptian universities, most of them delved with the plant ecology and floristic composition in the Nile valley, newly reclaimed lands, hydrophytes, and succulents in

relation to climate change. He was active in participating in the more than 100 field missions for his research, student training, as well as volunteering to help his scientific colleagues and the researchers from the Egyptian universities when he was asked about it. He has been an active member of the Natural History Museum project for three years. He is also a member of the Global Plant Initiative: to digitalize the type specimens at Cairo University Herbarium (CAI), Andrew Mellon Foundation (USA).

Dr. Ashraf Tawfiq was a pioneer in volunteer work at all levels, including the scientific, personal, and the religion-related issues. He enjoyed a generous manner, loving giving and helping others. Everyone who knew him testified to his virtuous morals, and we missed him a lot. Fate did not allow him to enjoy his professorship, soon he passed away on January 23, 2023.

Writer

Prof. Wafaa Amer

Cairo University Herbarium