

Kazimierz Rouppert botanist, popularizer of biology and agricultural knowledge

My doctoral dissertation is a biography of a forgotten, distinguished botanist Kazimierz Rouppert from Krakow.

He was born in 1885 in Warsaw, and in 1904 became a student of the Natural History Faculty of the University of Warsaw. As the University was soon closed down, Rouppert continued his botanical studies at the University of Cracow, under Prof. E. Janczewski, the well-known research worker of the genus *Ribes*. In 1907 Rouppert submitted a thesis for his doctorate on mycology, „Revision du Genre *Sphaerosoma*”, which was Published in de Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences in 1909. Afterwards he worked as research assistant to prof. A. Maurizio, M. Raciborski and E. Godlewski. His work on plant hairs, „The Stinging Hairs and Glandular Hairs” was published in the Bulletin during 1915-1918, and after submitting it to the Examination Council he became a qualified lecturer in botany, „Docent” Rouppert further investigations on this subject were published in various French botanical journals.

In 1925 he was granted a Rockefeller scholarship and spend a year studying in Paris and in the Island of Java. After his return to Cracow, he organized the Research Station for Plant Protection, and in 1927 was appointed ordinary professor of botany at the Jagiellonian University, lecturing to students in natural history, agricultural and dispensing chemistry. During 1932-33 he was Dean of the Agricultural Faculty at the Jagiellonian University.

After the outbreak of war he left Poland for Hungary, Egypt, Palestine and finalny, at the end of 1947, arrived in England.

It is impossible to give a full account of his 400 publications in Polish, French and German. I can only briefly mention here that his work on plant physiology has been published in Bulletin , Academie des Sciences, Paris. His papers on Flagellatae and Diatomae can be found in the Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences or in the Polish natural history journal, Kosmos. His work on the taxonomy of fungi and on the distribution of fungi in Poland was published in the Bulletin of the Academy of Science. Rouppert described several new species of Discomycetes in the Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences .

He was especially interested in the distribution of *Cronartium ribicola* (white pine blister rust). In his work published in German, „Blasenrost der Arve in der Hohen Tatra” (Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences, 1935), he gave an account of his records of

white pine rust on Swiss stone pine in the High Tatras. Rouppert was of the opinion that this rust in the Tatras is a relic of the Tertiary period from the time when the Carpathian and Siberian stone pine had a continuous distribution. He had also theories on the relationship of various *Cronartia*, but unfortunately these remained unpublished because of his long illness.

Rouppert also worked for the improvement of the overpopulated rural communities near Cracow. He was responsible for establishing many shops belonging to the Co-operative Society in the district of Wieliczka. His interest in improving the sanitary and health conditions in towns resulted in his being elected president of the Society for Gardening and of the Society for Developing Health Resorts and Spas (of the Cracow district). He was also a member of the Physiographic Commission at the Academy of Sciences in Cracow; of the Polish Botanical Society; of the French Botanical Society; and president of the Polish Natural History Copernicus Society. In addition, he was a member of the Association of Polish Professors and Lecturers in London; and secretary of the Polish Society of Arts and Sciences in London. In his private life, Rouppert was a charming person, full of courtesy and good humour. Being the Warden of the Relief Society of the students of Jagiellonian University from 1929 until 1935, Rouppert was very popular among young people because of his kindness and friendliness.

He carried out studies in floristics, mycology, algology, plant anatomy and plant physiology. In addition he was politically active. In 1919 he went to Peace Conference of Paris to negotiate incorporation of Orawa and Spisz into Poland. The negotiations were partly successful. After the Conference parts of Orawa and Spisz were incorporated.

All his life he was involved in wide education and popularization work for people from different groups of society. He popularized botany, gardening agriculture, pest eradication as well history of the motherland.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Zygmunt Rouppert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent flourish at the end.