

PROFESSOR GHEORGHE M. ILIESCU (1882-1937): A GREAT PERSONALITY OF THE ROMANIAN VETERINARY ANATOMY

PROFESORUL GHEORGHE M. ILIESCU (1882-1937): O MARE PERSONALITATE A ANATOMIEI VETERINARE ROMÂNEȘTI

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ABSTRACT | REZUMAT

Professor Gheorghe M. Iliescu was born in 1882. He graduated the Superior School of Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest in 1909, when he defended his veterinary doctoral thesis. In the same year he was named lecturer within the Department of Anatomy, and after that he continued as head of the Department of Surgery. He carried out specialized studies in Comparative Anatomy at the National Veterinary School of Alfort and at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. In 1927 he followed Professor C. Gavrilescu as the head of the Department of Anatomy where he remained until his death in 1937. In his teaching activity, he contributed to the preclinical preparation of numerous series of students, he advanced valuable scientific works and he led many PhD theses. Professor Iliescu is one of the greatest leaders of the Romanian Veterinary Anatomy.

Keywords: veterinary anatomy, professor, history of Romanian veterinary anatomy

Profesorul Gheorghe M. Iliescu s-a născut în 1882. A absolvit Școala Superioară de Medicină Veterinară din București în 1909, când și-a susținut teza de medic veterinar. În același an a fost numit Șef de lucrări la Catedra de Anatomie, apoi trece ca Șef al Clinicii chirurgicale. A făcut studii de specializare în anatomie comparată la Școala Națională Veterinară de la Alfort și la Muzeul de Istorie Naturală din Paris. În 1927 îi urmează profesorului C. Gavrilescu la conducerea catedrei de Anatomie, catedră pe care a condus-o până la decesul său în 1937. În cursul activității sale didactice a contribuit la pregătirea preclinică a numeroase serii de studenți, a realizat lucrări științifice valoroase și a condus mai multe teze de doctorat. Profesorul Iliescu este unul din marii corifei ai Anatomiei veterinare românești.

Cuvinte cheie: anatomie veterinară, profesor, istoria anatomiei veterinare românești

On 30 December 2017, 80 years have passed from the death of Professor Gheorghe M. Iliescu (55 years old) who was Professor of Descriptive, Comparative Anatomy and Topographic at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Bucharest.

Professor Gheorghe M. Iliescu (Fig. 1) was born in Bucharest in 1882. After the primary school, he pursued the secondary courses at the "Matei Basarab" High-School. After finishing high-school, in 1902, he joined the Superior School of Veterinary Medicine, being a very good, hard-working and devoted student, and because of these qualities he was granted a scholarship during all years of studies. He defended his thesis of veterinary medicine in 1909, entitled "Scopolamine, pharmacodynamics research and the mechanism of helping action in the anaesthesia with chloroform". At the same time, he was appointed Lecturer within the Department of Anatomy.

As Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy he worked very hard and published a lot of information from the dissection room. In 1911, he became lecturer within the Department of Surgical Clinics, where, because of his poor health which did not allow him a lot of efforts, he didn't stay for a long period. Just as he was saying (from the recollections of Professor V. Gheție), "with pain in the heart" he left the Department of Surgical Clinics which "he loved so much" and returned in 1913 as lecturer at the Department of Anatomy. Here, he studied a lot and achieved excellence so that veterinary anatomy did not hold any secrets for him.



Fig. 1. Gheorghe M. Iliescu (1882-1937)

After World War I, between 1920 and 1921, Gheorghe M. Iliescu was one of the Professors who had an

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important role in the transformation of the Superior School of Veterinary Medicine in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

In the period after his returning to the Department of Anatomy, Gheorghe M. Iliescu published some anatomy works which were very appreciated both in the country and abroad.

In 1924, Professor C. Gavrilescu released the course of Topographic Anatomy, in the form of fascicles. After a short introduction, the first fascicle of the course, entitled "The topography of the abdominal cavity in the ox", was signed by lecturer Gheorghe M. Iliescu. This fact which demonstrated the modesty and the generosity of Professor Gavrilescu, by giving the priority of the beginning to someone in a lower rank. Subsequently, there appeared, in order, three fascicles, i.e. 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12/1925, this time written by Professor Gavrilescu and having the theme "The head in the domestic animals". These fascicles of 34 pages included many anatomic sketches, some of them colourful, made by the young assistant of the Department of Anatomy, Vasile Gheție.

In the autumn of 1924, Professor Gheorghe Iliescu left for Paris and worked in the Zoology National Museum (now the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle) under the supervision of Professor Raoul Anthony and in the Superior School of Veterinary Medicine from Alfort, in the Anatomy Laboratory of Professor Édouard Sicaire Bourdelle, under whose guidance he finished his specialization in Anatomy. In 1926, he obtained the title of Doctor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Paris, in the specialty of Veterinary with the works: "Recherches anatomiques sur les cavités nasales chez le chat" and "Recherches anatomiques sur les cavités nasales chez le chien" (Fig. 2).

In 1927, he returned to the country and right away he was named Professor in the Department of Comparative, Descriptive and Topographic Anatomy, this being favoured by the retirement of the Professor C. Gavrilescu. Also in 1927, Professor Gh. M. Iliescu became a PhD supervisor.

Professor Iliescu was member of the General Association of the Veterinary Surgeons in Romania, member of the Veterinary Medicine Society, and member of the Society for Acclimatization in France.

Unfortunately, Professor Iliescu had a poor health which did not allow him to achieve his full potential in

the teaching and researching activities. In his last years of life, he rarely came at the courses, and when he entered in the laboratory, as reported by Professor V. Gheție, with the eyes in tears he told his colleagues

"you work as much as possible because I can do nothing". Professor Gheție also said "like a relief of his suffering, he found a consolation for animals, putting in this way the bases of the rational growth of trapped horses, fact which will remain written with golden letters in the history of the Romanian hippology".

Unfortunately, the disease advanced rapidly and, on 30 December 1937, Prof. Gh. M. Iliescu closed his eyes

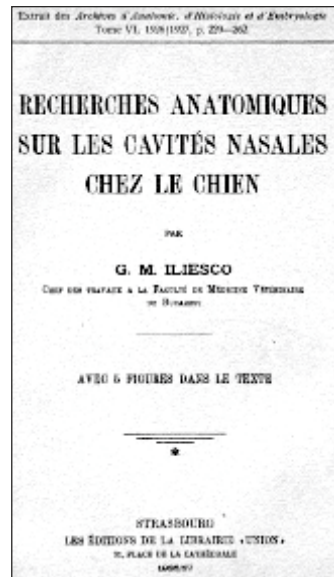


Fig. 2. Anatomical research on nasal cavities in dogs (Scientific Paper)

forever and was buried in the "Reînvierea" ("Resurrection") graveyard in Bucharest. As an irony of fate, another two professors from Comparative Anatomy are in the same graveyard, Professor Octavian Bica-Popii and Professor Nicolae Cornilă. Professor Cornilă has his place right behind Professor Iliescu.

The scientific activity of Professor Gheorghe M. Iliescu is represented by the following works:

1. Gavrilescu, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Chestionar asupra părților exterioare și semnalmentele animalelor. Arhiva Veterinară no. 8/1904 [in Romanian].
2. Gavrilescu C.; Iliescu Gh. – Anevrismul marei mezenterică la cal. Arhiva Veterinară 1/1910 [in Romanian].
3. Gavrilescu, C.; Iliescu, Gh – Un caz de bifiditate a canalului excretor al utriculului prostatic. Arhiva Veterinară no. 4/1910 [in Romanian].
4. Gavrilescu, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Pentru ce este trebuincios să fim învățați cu o doză oarecare de cunoștințe teoretice. Arhiva Veterinară 2/1911 [in Romanian].
5. Gavrilescu, C.; Iliescu Gh. – Notes anatomiques. Arhiva Veterinară no. 3/1911.
6. Gavrilescu, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Un monstru atlodin cu cifoasă și spina bifida. Arhiva Veterinară no. 3/1911 [in Romanian].

7. Gavrilesco, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Monstru gastromèle de chat à huit pattes. Arhiva Veterinară no. 5 /1911 [in French].

8. Gavrilesco, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Monstru chelonizom de vițel. Arhiva Veterinară 2/1912 [in Romanian].

9. Gavrilesco, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Un monstru synot de porc. Arhiva Veterinară no. 2/1913 [in Romanian].

10. Gavrilesco, C.; Iliescu, Gh. – Note anatomice. Arhiva Veterinară no. 1 /1921 [in Romanian].

11. Iliescu, Gh. M. – Cercetări anatomice asupra bivolului comparativ cu boul, Ed. Instit. de Arte Grafice Bucovina, Bucharest, 1924 [in Romanian].

12. Iliescu G. (1925) – Recherches anatomiques sur les cavités nasales chez le chat. Rec. Med. Vét. d'Alfort. 102 [in French].

13. Iliescu G. (1926) – Recherches anatomiques sur les cavités nasales chez le chien. Arh. d'Anat. hist. embr. Strasbourg 6 [in French].

14. Iliescu G. (1915) – Etude des veisseeux lymphatiquee du coecum chez le cheval, le porc, le mouton et le chien per le method des injections avec blue de Prusse, Arch. et. XII, 11 pag. 305 [in French].

15. Gavrilesco C, Iliescu M. (1911) – Notes Anatomiques. Arh. Vet. VIII No. 3:152 (B.956) [in French].

16. Gavrilesco C, Iliescu G. (1921) – Osteoartrita deformantă scapulo-humerală dreaptă la cal. Arh. Vet. VII, No. 2 [in Romanian].

17. Gavrilesco C, Iliescu M. (1921) – Note Anatomice. Arh. Vet. No.1 [in Romanian].

18. Iliescu G. (1922) – Cercetări clinice asupra unui caz de ruptură a mușchilor pectorali la un cal Orlov. Arh. Vet. CV, 45:185 [in Romanian].

Professor Gheorghe M. Iliescu has led with a lot of scientific authority several doctoral theses, among which we mention:

1. Contribuțiuni la studiul vaselor limfatice ale stomacului la câine (Contributions to the study of the lymphatic vessels of the stomach in the dog) – PhD student Celan Boris, 1928.

2. Cercetări anatomice asupra constituției urechii medii la câine (Anatomical research on the middle ear constitution in the dog) – PhD student Corneliu Balint, 1929.

3. Cercetări anatomice asupra urechii medii și interne la cal (Anatomical research on the middle and inner ear in the horse) – PhD student Popescu I. Petre, 1929.

4. Cercetări anatomice asupra sinusurilor la porc (Anatomical research on the pig sinuses) – PhD student Gavril Buzea, 1929.

5. Cercetări anatomice asupra căilor spermaticice la cotoi (conuri eferente și epididim) (Anatomical research on the spermatic ways in tomcats [efferent cones and epididymis]) – PhD student Constantin Gh. Bușilă, 1930.

6. Canalele excretorii ale glandei parotide la cal (Excretory channels of the parotid gland in the horse) – PhD student Stan F. Stan, 1937.

7. Arterele și venele digitale ale oii (The arteries and digital veins of the sheep) – PhD student Anca Nicolae, 1937.

8. Rețelele intrinseci arteriale și venoase în testiculul de berbec (Intrinsic arterial and venous networks in the ram testicle) – PhD student Dumitru Caprițescu, 1937.

9. Rețeaua vasculară intrinsecă arterială și venoasă a testiculului de câine (Intrinsic arterial and venous vascular network of the dog testicle) – PhD student Ilarion I. Motoașcă, 1937.

10. Rețeaua vasculară intrinsecă arterială și venoasă în mamelă la iapă (Intrinsic arterial and venous vascular network in the mammary gland of the mare) – PhD student Rotaru Veceslav, 1937.

11. Rețeaua vasculară intrinsecă arterială, venoasă și galactofore din mamela de vacă (Intrinsic arterial, venous and galactoforeal vascular network of the cow's mammary gland) – PhD student Eugenia Brătinoiu, 1937.

12. Cercetări asupra câtorva însușiri ale mamelei de vacă, oaie și capră - PhD in co-supervision between Prof. Dr. G. K. Constantinescu and Prof. Dr. Gh. M. Iliescu (Research on several attributes of the cow, sheep and goat mammary gland) – PhD student Constantin C. Simionescu, 1937.

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