

**PROF. DR. ALİ DEMİRSOY**

He came to the world in 1945 as the son of Mehmet Sadık Demirsoy, a peasant-farmer from Kemaliye, Erzincan. Demirsoy attended his village Primary School in 1956; Kemaliye Secondary School in 1959; Ankara Gazi High School in 1962. In 1966, he graduated from the department of Natural Sciences of the Faculty of Science, Ankara University. He became an Assistant at the

Department of Biology, Atatürk University in the same year. With a doctorate thesis on Orthoptera Fauna of Erzurum and its environs, Demirsoy became a doctorate degree holder in 1971. In the same year, with a scholarship from DAAD, he went to Germany for language education. On completion of his language course, he won Humboldt bursary to study both at Hamburg University in Paris and in Research Institutes in London. After a thesis on Turkey's Caelifera Fauna, Demirsoy made a Habilitation in 1974. Again, within this period, with finance provided by the United Nations, he participated actively in the study of Oceanography, fishes and sea current in deep sea scientific research at the pole, Grönland and around Iceland. Also in 1984, he won the Alexander von Humboldt bursary again to continue a research on Turkey's Fauna at the Zoology Institute of Hamburg University.

He was appointed to Hacettepe University in 1978. In 1980-1981, Prof. Dr. Demirsoy was the Head of Department of Zoology; 1981-1982 - the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Hacettepe University.

Prof. Dr. Demirsoy is continuing his work especially on Orthoptera whose scientific studies he started together with the other insect groups and invertebrates. It is on record that, his scientific books concerning vertebrate and invertebrate organisms have been the first and comprehensive works on the biodiversity of Turkey. At the end of his studies, he had identified 20 new species for the scientific world in addition to the other 16 new species identified by other scientists and Demirsoy's name given. Beside Turkish Fauna, Environment, Zoogeography and Biodiversity, he is also into Nature Conservation and Biology Education.

More than 10 series of lecture books under the name "The Basic Laws of Life" written by Prof. Dr. Ali Demirsoy are still being used as reference sources at the department of Biology in Turkish Universities. Apart from

lecture books, research, experiment and science, there are other popular works done by Demirsoy which have played the leading roles in the introduction and the development of Biological Sciences in our country.

Prof. Dr. Ali Demirsoy has supervised tens of hundreds of both Masters and Doctorate students on areas yet to be studied in Biology in Turkey and they are today, distinguished and successful scientists in the world in their different fields of endeavour.

With the efforts shown by Demirsoy toward the development of Biological Sciences and Education, he is known to be one of the distinguished scientists in Turkey. His work discipline, productivity and personality are worth emulation by young scientists. He has emphasised that starting from human relations to economy, it is necessary that all professional groups should know Biology and has analysed the connections between social relationship and Biological life. Far from being dogmatic, it is mentioned that a real scientist should have analytic thinking quality. In the development of societies, it is necessary that science and its flow should be in the forefront and within this period, Biological Science has always played the locomotive role.

Presently continuing with his works at the Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology of Hacettepe University, Prof. Dr. Ali Demirsoy is not only shining his Biological Science lights illuminating his environment but also, he is enlightening the whole universe.

**By**  
**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aydın AKBULUT**