

<b>EMANOIL ȘTIUCĂ</b> <b>1956-2013</b>
---

**POPESCU Aurelian**



I first met Emanoil Știucă when I made my debut as a curator in the Natural Sciences Section of the Museum of Oltenia, Craiova. It was sometime in September 1992, and Emil came to Craiova together with Mr. Costin Rădulescu and Mr. Petre Mihai Samson. I waited for them at the railway station, according to the instructions received from the museum manager, who had told me that a team of experts from the Institute of Speology Emil Racoviță would come; according to him, they were interested in the fossil samples from Bugiulești, which could be found in our museum's collection.

I was utterly mesmerized by the distinction of the two "greats", Rădulescu and Samson, but also by Emil's remarkable skill, because he was very much at ease around the collection. At the time, he was just working on his doctoral dissertation and he was still a disciple of the two researchers.

He was still a young man, bearded, who wore his hair long, gathered in a ponytail (slightly imitating Samson) but he possessed quite a great amount of research experience in the field of palaeontology, as I could understand from his dialogues with his senior masters.

After a quick examination of the samples in the mammal collection, when Emil made me aware of the genuine scientific value of the collection, we established to collaborate in paleontological researches, which would take several years. This collaboration with the ISER researchers has remained the most important event of my entire professional career so far. Three fruitful years then followed. In summer, we would move to Padea castle, on the Jiu river, where we undertook the richest paleontological diggings in Oltenia after 1990. I was in the same team with Emil and strove to keep up with him, at least physically (he was then at the peak of his strength, so I had to make extra efforts to be able to resist to the work rhythm he imposed), considering that in terms of scientific knowledge he was far too advanced for me. He was a field man and a team man. He was extremely serious when engaged in paleontological digging: I have learnt from him what it means to be rigorous in one's work. He would thoroughly explain to me, step by step, the relatively complicated technology of paleontological diggings in search for micromammals. In the evenings, after finishing the diggings and while working on the material and trying to sort it out, Emil was an inexhaustible source of humour and good mood: he would share jokes, funny stories, and recollections. He used to work attentively and he had a special talent for discovering the tiny rodent molars. In this area, too, he showed outstanding rigour, by carefully recording each piece, despite the relaxed atmosphere in which everything was taking place. Drănic diggings were a real school to me, and Emil Știucă was one of the teachers from whom I had a lot to learn.

After the diggings in Drănic were over, I had the opportunity to join Emil in the writing of scientific papers as well. His habit was to work hard at comprehending the topic in the first place, and that is why he took pains to elaborate the text. He used to say so himself: "I write slowly". Indeed, he took his time with writing, but he did a great job at it, it was all worth it! He was thorough, methodical, and adamant about academic guidelines. He had the conscientiousness of a true researcher, as I was able to see on various occasions, when not so much the fear of being "caught" with fake results made him reluctant, but the fact that he could not bear to attach his name to a paper which might contain data which were not verified and confirmed either in the field or in the lab. This way of viewing things, he passed it on to me in the most natural way, without nagging me about it, aware as he was that high professional standards are best transmitted by one's living example. In his turn, he had learnt all this from the two coryphaei or Romanian palaeontology - Rădulescu and Samson - and he did not wish to keep everything for himself.

Years passed by, and our collaborations grew more rare, but we came to a point where we had perfect trust in one another, and each of us knew about the other what he was willing and able to do or not to do. We had another occasion to work together while digging at Roșiile (formerly Bugiulești). There were no longer the same conditions as at the Padea castle, and this would probably be an understatement: we slept on the floor, together with a younger colleague, on a plastic foil laid straight on the floor of a room in an old ruined community centre. He could have taken better care of himself (he had started having health issues already), but he wanted very much to engage with the team, to participate, not only in the excavations, but also in the field life, with its pros and cons, fortunes and misfortunes.

I have also met Emil Știucă at several conferences, either national or international. He did not enjoy much presenting the paper himself, and usually he let his collaborators do it, even though he was the main author. However, he never passed unnoticed, because he raised a lot of questions and discussed many problems in panels. He was always in control of his thoughts and discourse and one could tell that he had insight in the problem which was discussed.

He greatly admired his mentors, Costin Rădulescu and Petre Mihai Samson. He was in their “shadow” for some time, as it were, but afterwards he set his own path.

He had a beautiful family whom he loved very much. He often mentioned his wife and son and you could read in his face that he was extremely proud of them and that he had an accomplished family life.

On every single level, he was in that stage where, after hard work and all the existential trials, he was about to pick up the well-deserved fruit. On the professional level, he had become an acknowledged researcher, he had a trustworthy solid team and he was well known for his contributions, both in the country and abroad. He fostered exciting projects, he had a lot of material for further study – he could have very well managed without another outing in the field, as he had plenty of fossil samples for his future papers. He used to take me aside when I visited him at ISER and graciously show me the valuable material he kept in the warehouse. Of course, there was some professional pride in that display. He was working on a dictionary of paleontological terms, a book which, if published, would be tantamount for those in the branch. I have no information about the current stage of the project, but I know that its publication would be a genuine event in the community of vertebrate palaeontologists in Romania.

His recent afflictions did not discontinue, but just slowed down his activity. He was at the highest point of creative maturity, when he was expected to publish his syntheses, to prepare one or two apprentices and guide their steps in the domain, which he so passionately served and loved.

Emil Ştiucă passed on the other side much too soon... His departure is a tragic loss for his family, his friends, and for Romanian palaeontology. May God rest his soul in peace!

Were it possible to condense Emanoil Ştiucă’s biography in a few sentences, here are the main moments and events:

He was born on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1956 in Bucharest, where he went to school, practically at all levels of education: primary school, high school (at Theoretical High School Ion Creangă, between 1971-1975) and university – Faculty of Geology-Geography, section of Geological Engineering within University of Bucharest (1978-1983). He defended his doctoral thesis in 2000, with Theodor Neagu as the main coordinator and also under the guidance of Costin Rădulescu and Petre Mihai Samson.

Graduating with honours, in 1983 he was assigned a post at Intreprinderea de Prospeccțiuni și Explorări Geologice București (IPGG), and in 1985 he started his activity of scientific research at the Geological Institute of Romania. In 1987 he obtained his degree as a scientific researcher. In 1991 he won a contest for the position of scientific researcher third degree at the Institute of Speleology Emil Racoviță in Bucharest, while in 2004, also as a result of a competition, he became a scientific researcher second degree. He worked a lot in the field: in the Mesozoic deposits in Apuseni Mountains, in the dinosaur strata in Hațeg Basin, in the Miocene on Valea Reghiului and in the Pliocene in Lupoia and Pinoasa quarters. He also undertook explorations in the caves from Scocul Scorotei, Valea Lupșei, Vârful Râiosu in Făgăraș Mountains and at Movile Cave. His research activity materialized in a series of outstanding scientific papers, some of them in ISI journals.

I insert below a list of the most important publications authored or co-authored by Emanoil Ştiucă as well as a few photographs from the family album.

- ŞTIUCĂ E. 1993. *Contributions to the knowledge of Gulo spelaeus from Romania*. Travaux de l’Institut de Speleologie «Emil Racoviță» Bucarest. **32**: 119-129.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. 1994. *Nyctereutes megamastoides (Pommel) dans le Pliocene final d’Oltenie*. Supliment Studia Universitatis „Babeş-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca. 27 pp.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. & H. ILINCA. 1995. *Pleistocene mammals (Rodentia) from Movile Cave (Romanie)*. Theoretical and Applied Karstology. București. **8**: 157-161.
- ŞTIUCĂ E., ILINCA H., GIURGIU I. 1995. *Données faunistiques concernant les grottes de grande altitude des Monts Făgăraș (Carpates Méridionales, Roumanie)* (abstract). Theoretical and Applied Karstology. “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology Cluj-Napoca: 29-30.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. & PETCULESCU AL. 2000. *Studiul geoecologic al zonei Dobra – Roșcani*. In: Ştiucă N., coord.: „Roșcani un sat pentru mileniul III”) Edit. Emia. Deva: 263-266.
- ŞTIUCĂ E., PETCULESCU AL., SEGHEDI I. 2001. *Noi date geologice asupra perimetrului Dobra - Roșcani, cu o privire specială asupra fenomenelor carstice*. Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Ştiințele Naturii. Muzeul Olteniei Craiova. **17**: 6-13.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. & POPESCU A. 2001. *Noi date privind afinitățile câinelui enot (Nyctereutes megamastoides Pommel) din Pliocenul de la Tetoiu (=Bugiulești) (Județul Vâlcea, România)*. Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Ştiințele Naturii. Muzeul Olteniei Craiova. **17**: 41-46.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. & PETCULESCU AL. 2001. *Asupra asociațiilor faunistice de micromamifere Pleistocen superioare de la Movile, Mangalia*. (rezumat). The Third Romanian Symposium on Paleontology. Iași. **3**: 33 pp.
- ŞTIUCĂ E. & ARGHIR R. 2002. *Martes genus representatives in the Wurmian of Romania*. Theoretical and Applied Karstology. “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology Bucharest. **15**: 111-116.

- ȘTIUCĂ E.**, PETCULESCU AL., ARGHIR R. 2003. *Desmana radulescui a new Pliocene Water-Mole (Talpidae, Insectivora, Mammalia) in Romania*. In: A. Petculescu & E. Știucă (Eds.) *Advances in Vertebrate Paleontology - Hen to Panta*. Romanian Academy „Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology. Bucharest: 71-74.
- ȘTIUCĂ E.** 2003. *Note préliminaire sur les mammifères du Miocène de Reghiu (Dèpt. Vrancea, Roumanie)*. In: A. Petculescu & E. Știucă (Eds.) *Advances in Vertebrate Paleontology - “Hen to Panta”*. Romanian Academy “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology. Bucharest: 113-116.
- ȘTIUCĂ E.**, PETCULESCU AL., ARGHIR R. 2004. *Mamiferele mari din Romanianul Bazinului Dacic; implicațiile lor biocronologice*. In: (Ed. coord. R. Olteanu) *Romanianul și problemele lui: faună, stratigrafie, sedimentogeneză*. Academia Română. Institutul de Speologie „Emil Racoviță”. București: 73-79.
- ȘTIUCĂ E.**, POPESCU A., PETCULESCU AL. 2007. *New data on the cave hyena (Crocota crocuta spelaea Goldfuss 1832) from Muierii Cave (Baia de Fier, Gorj District, Romania)*. *Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Științele Naturii*. Muzeul Olteniei Craiova. **23**: 201-208.
- VASILE ȘT., PANAITESCU D., ȘTIUCĂ E., VIRAG A. 2012. *Additional proboscidean fossils from Mavrodin (Teleorman County, Romania)*. *Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Științele Naturii*. Muzeul Olteniei Craiova. **28**(2): 211-218.
- ȘTIUCĂ E.**, PETCULESCU AL., VASILE ȘT., TIȚĂ R. 2012. *Macro- and micromammal faunas associated with Mammuthus (Archidiskodon) meridionalis in the Lower-Middle Pleistocene from Copăcenii (Ilföv County, Romania)* (abstract). In: Murariu et al. (eds.) *Annual Zoological Congress of “Grigore Antipa” Museum*. Bucharest: 76-77.
- ȘTIUCĂ E.** & PETCULESCU AL. 2012. *Hyena, Wolves and Foxes from Peștera cu Oase*. In: Trinkhaus et al. (Eds.) *Life and Death at the Peștera cu Oase: A Setting for Modern Human Emergence in Europe*. Oxford University Press. Oxford: 346-388.



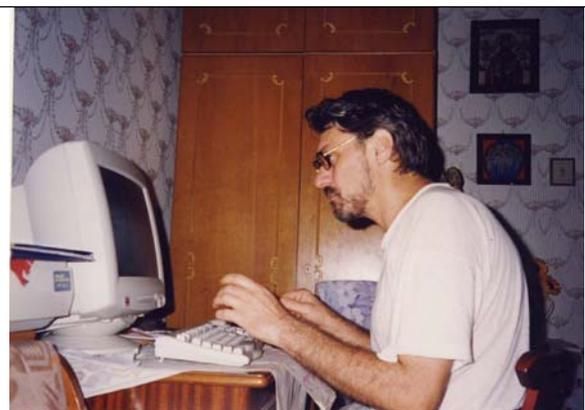
On Christmas, with his son Florin, in 1986.



Among his colleagues from the University, during a field trip.



With Petre Mihai Samson, during a scientific conference at the Museum of Oltenia, Craiova (1999).



At his desk, at home, in 1998.

**Popescu Aurelian**  
The Oltenia Museum Craiova,  
8, Popa Șapcă Str., 200422, Craiova, Romania.  
E-mail: aurelian\_popescu@yahoo.fr

Received: August 17, 2013  
Accepted: September 01, 2013