

TIKVAH EDELSTEIN

1926 - 1977

A Tribute

The many friends of Tikvah Edelstein were very saddened by her death, from cancer, on October 7, 1977, just a few months after her fifty-first birthday. Apart from the loss to her personal friends, her death marked the passing of a skilled and distinguished phycologist.

Our friendship stemmed from our first meeting at the Atlantic Regional Laboratory. Tikvah was a woman with a sincere and sensitive personality. We remember her most of all for her enthusiastic appreciation of the beauties of marine algae, and for her excited calls to all around to share her discoveries in the field or the laboratory. An ardent botanist, Tikvah loved plants, not only the marine plants related to her work, but also garden plants, which were very much in evidence in her home, office, and laboratory and remained one of her chief interests even during her last months.

Tikvah Edelstein was born on June 24, 1926 in Safed, Palestine (now part of Israel). She received her Master's degree in science from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and obtained her PhD degree in 1961 at the same university under Professor T. Rayss. Her doctoral dissertation was on the benthic marine algae of Haifa Bay. During the course of her post-graduate studies, she lectured in the biology department at the Technion--Israel Institute of Technology--in Haifa.

With her husband, Dr Michael Edelstein, a mathematician, she came to the United States in the early sixties. She spent her first year in North America at Cornell University with Professor J. M. Kingsbury and the following year at Michigan State University with Professor G. W. Prescott, working on fresh-water algae.

Tikvah emigrated to Canada in 1964, on her thirty-eighth birthday. In December of that year, she was appointed to the staff of the Atlantic Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council of Canada as an algal taxonomist, when the late director, Dr A.C. Neish, decided to expand regional algal exploration.

During her stay at ARL, she worked closely with Dr. J. McLachlan, studying marine algae of the Maritime Provinces and particularly in Nova Scotia. As a result of her efforts, knowledge of the algal flora of this region was greatly expanded, and enriched by her contribution of over fifty publications on local species. To deal with the lack of taxonomic information on some algae, she undertook culture studies, and thus contributed significantly to our understanding of several algal life histories. She is well-known for her discovery of the tetrasporophyte of Gloiosiphonia and completion of the life history of G. capillaris. She also initiated studies on some epiphytic and endophytic algae. At the same time, she established and maintained the marine algal herbarium at ARL, which has become one of the major algal herbaria in eastern North America. She also built up a large collection of references and card files on the regional flora, which are convenient not only for her colleagues at ARL, but also for phycologists in the vicinity.

On a year's staff posting in 1971-72, Tikvah divided her time between the University of California at Berkeley with Professor G.F. Papenfuss, and the University of Adelaide, South Australia, with Professor H.B.S. Womersley. After her return to ARL, she became deeply involved with the morphology and systematics of agarophytic algae, with recent emphasis on Gracilaria. She also belonged to a number of phycological societies, and had been an associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Botany since 1970.

Tikvah Edelstein is survived by her husband; a daughter, Leah; one sister, Mrs. Chava Sdehor; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Itzhak Segal. As living memorials to her, Tikvah's friends have had trees planted in Israel and at ARL, in Halifax.

L.C-M. Chen

C.J. Bird