

## **Tribute to Pierre Gadal**

**It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Pierre Gadal, which occurred on October 26, 2019 at the age of eighty-one.**

After a PhD on the metabolism of galls and tannins in the laboratory of Professor Brunel in Toulouse, Pierre Gadal was successively an Assistant then "Maître-assistant" at the University of Paul Sabatier, Professor at the University of Nancy I (1973-1981) and finally Professor at the University Paris-Sud until the end of his career in 2003. For a long time he led a CNRS-associate research team (Molecular Plant Physiology) in Nancy and then in Orsay where he became the first director of the Institute of Plant Biotechnology (CNRS – University Paris-Sud), of which he was one of the initiators. This structure has been very important for plant biology research on the Orsay campus and the Paris region and it has recently contributed to the creation of a new plant research institute (Institute of Plant Sciences Paris-Saclay, IPS2) within Paris-Saclay. It would be too long to list all of the pedagogical and administrative responsibilities that Pierre Gadal undertook, but beyond the direction of a research institute, he was also President of the CNU 66 section and Director of the doctoral school of Plant Sciences at the University Paris-Sud. Pierre Gadal had a great influence on French plant physiology and he was distinguished in 1998 by the French Academy of Sciences, when he was awarded with a prize for his entire scientific career. His scientific contributions and those of his team members have been highly recognized internationally, in particular for the molecular study of the regulation of key enzymes of C<sub>4</sub> photosynthesis (PEP carboxylase, NADP-malate dehydrogenase), redox regulation systems in plants and enzymes involved in nitrogen assimilation (glutamine synthetase, GOGAT) and carbon-nitrogen relations in plants (isocitrate dehydrogenases). Pierre Gadal and his group were leaders in the field of plant biochemistry, integrating at the dawn of the 1980s technical approaches that were still under developed and in particular genetic engineering and structural biology. Pierre Gadal passed away in October 2019 after a difficult illness. The reactions to his death were unanimous: it is a major actor in the field of plant sciences who has passed away. He has left a strong mark on all who had the chance to work with him, former students and colleagues, because of his charisma and enthusiasm, stimulating everyone to develop their own critical thinking and to move forward with determination and rigor, but also because of his benevolence towards everyone. His passing is sorely felt by all.