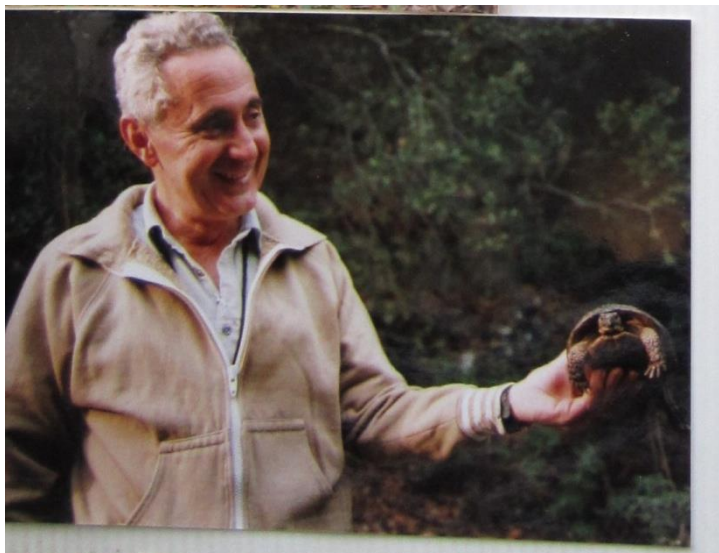


Obituary: Professor Nisan Binyamini (1930-2017)

Bruria Gal

In memory of Nisan Binyamini, Mycologist and pioneer of Fungi research in Israel

Nisan was born in 1930 and sadly passed away in the beginning of 2017. He spent his childhood in Jerusalem and was a member of the Young Maccabi youth movement. Later on he joined the Hagana forces and helped build the Burma passageway and escort food envoys during the 1948 siege of Jerusalem.



He began his Academic studies at the Hebrew university and continued his studies at the Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, specializing in Fungi, under the supervision of Prof. Mina Nadel-Schiffmann and Prof. Isaac Wahl.

In 1959 he received a position at Tel Aviv University, where he researched and lectured in his field and in time became a professor at the Botanical Department. He received two annual grants, one in Switzerland and the other in Denmark, and furthered his knowledge on edible and poisonous Fungi.

He identified over 800 species of fungi from diverse groups which can be found in Israel. He collected and preserved about 6000 specimens from all the various habitats in Israel. Of the many species he was the first to describe *Macowanites galilensis*, *Boletus reichertii* and *Russula carmelensis*.

His fungi collection is part of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History collections, at Tel-Aviv University.

Nisan Wrote 5 books, including illustrated field guides, used by the public to this day. He wrote and published many articles on Israeli fungi and gave many species their scientific Hebrew name. He retired at the age of 69.

May he rest in peace.

Picture taken by Elinoar Shavit