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MEMORY

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## In Memory of G. P. Ostroverkhova (1935–2008)

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Galina Petrovna Ostroverkhova, Doctor of Biology, Professor, head of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at Tomsk State University, head of the Tomsk Branch of the Russian Entomological Society, died at the age of 72 on the 20th of June, 2008.

Galina Petrovna was born on the 27th of December, 1935 in Novosibirsk. In 1954, she entered the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science of Tomsk State University (TSU), and all her subsequent life was inseparably connected with this university and its Department of Invertebrate Zoology. In 1959, she graduated from the university with the qualification “biologist-zoologist.” As a student, she studied parasitology, her diploma *The Parasite Fauna of the Fish of Novosibirsk Reservoir in the First Years of Its Formation* was awarded the second prize at a competition of scientific papers of university students and post-graduates in 1961.

After graduating from the university Galina Petrovna began her post-graduate training at her department. The head of the department P.I. Marikovski suggested that she should study an interesting but quite obscure at that time group of mycetophagous insects. Under his supervision this work was successfully carried out and completed in 1964 as a Candidate's Dissertation *Arthropods Inhabiting Higher Basidial Fungi in Some Regions of Western Siberia*, defended in front of the Joint Medical and Biological Council in Tomsk.

On finishing post-graduate training in 1962, Galina Petrovna worked at the department, first as assistant lecturer, then as associate professor, and headed the department since 1975. From 1973 to 1975, during her doctorate training, she worked as a senior research associate at the Research Institute for Biology and Biophysics at TSU, and in 1988 she acted as Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science.

Continuing the studies of mycetophagous insects, which she started in the years of her post-graduate



training, Galina Petrovna focused on the mycetophiloid complex of dipterans. At that time nothing was known on fungus gnats in Siberia, and works on the USSR fauna were very scarce. As the only specialist on mycetophiloid dipterans, Galina Petrovna was invited to participate in preparing *Keys to the Insects of the European part of the USSR* on which the leading scientists were working at that time. Together with A.A. Stackelberg she wrote the relevant section of the *Keys* (1969). In 1979, her monograph *Fungus Gnats (Diptera, Mycetophiloidea) of Siberia* was published, which was the first and for a long time remained the only Russian monograph of this group. The book presented, for the first time for Siberia and partly the Far East, data on 370 species of mycetophiloid gnats, of which about 130 species, 1 genus, and 1 tribe were described as new to science. In 1986, on the eve of her birthday, Galina Petrovna successfully defended her Doctoral dissertation *Complexes of Mycetophiloid Dipterans in Forest Ecosystems* at the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The study of fungus gnats revealed a number of important theoretical problems never dealt with before in the literature, in particular the problems of interspecific relations between insects and heterotrophic organisms such as fungi, which is a certain development of the concept of consortive associations based mostly on the studies of the relations between animals and higher plants. Also, Galina Petrovna considered the problems of morphoecological evolution of Mycetophiloidea, the origin and establishment of mycetophagy, and analyzed the zoogeography and phylogeny of the group.

Recently, Galina Petrovna carried out the work on the sanitary and bioindication assessment of fungi and the fungus–insect system on the whole (mycetoconsortia). Under her supervision the content of toxic elements (radionuclides, heavy metals) in some fungi was estimated, preliminary conclusions were made concerning the bioindicative parameters of some species of fungi, of the whole fungus–mycetophage system and some of its components.

Publications of G.P. Ostroverkhova as one of the few specialists on mycetophiloids are well known both in Russia and abroad. She was invited to international symposia and congresses for consultations and help in identifications etc.

In addition to many-sided studies of mycetophiloid gnats, Galina Petrovna worked in other fields. She headed the scientific investigation of the honey bee at the *Apis* scientific production center attached to the department. She also investigated opisthorchiasis and blood-sucking mosquitoes.

The educational activity of Galina Petrovna was also many-sided. She developed and gave courses of general and special biological disciplines (invertebrate zoology, theoretical zoology, foundations of biotaxonomy, insect cultivation, invertebrate evolution and phylogeny, history and methodology of science, bioethics), published study guides. In 2005 her textbook *Invertebrate Zoology* was recommended by the Educational and Methodological Department of the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Science for university students of biology.

Under Galina Petrovna's supervision 12 Candidate's and 2 Doctoral dissertations were successfully maintained. The last defense of a dissertation took place a week before her death.

As a member of the Scientific-methodological Council on Higher Biological Education, Galina Petrovna carried out its assignments at the faculty, was a member of two specialized councils on defense of Doctoral Dissertations in Ecology and Zoology. In 1997, within the education and science integration program, a branch of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology was opened at the Institute of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk.

Galina Petrovna devoted a lot of time to social work and used to be the supervising professor of student groups and the students' scientific society at the faculty, the head of the trade union committee of the faculty, the head of the Methodological Committee of the faculty, the secretary and head of the Moscow Society of Naturalists, the head of the Tomsk Branch of the Russian Entomological Society, the secretary of the Methodological Committee of the Regional *Znanije [Knowledge]* Society, a deputy of the City Council (1963–1964).

For her merit in the field of higher education G.P. Ostroverkhova was awarded the Badges of the State Committee of the USSR on public education "For Excellent Progress in Work" and "The Honorable Worker in Higher Professional Education of Russian Federation", and also the Veteran of Labor medal and the anniversary medal For Services Rendered to Tomsk University.

The wonderful teacher, supervisor and wise counselor of young people, G.P. Ostroverkhova for ever remained in the memory of her colleagues and students at Tomsk State University.

#### THE MAIN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF G.P. OSTROVERKHOVA ON THE TAXONOMY, MORPHOLOGY, AND ECOLOGY OF MYCETOPHILOIDEA

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