

Beitr. Ent., Berlin 36 (1986) 2, S. 207–208



Prof. Dr. MERKURII SERGEEVICH GILJAROV

\* 22. 2. 1912 — † 2. 3. 1985

Am 2. März 1985 verstarb im 74. Lebensjahr das auswärtige Mitglied unseres Redaktionskollegiums Prof. Dr. GILJAROV. Die Redaktion der Zeitschrift „Beiträge zur Entomologie“ verliert in ihm einen Kollegen, der stets bereit war, sie bei der Gewinnung neuer Autoren und Leser sowie der fachlichen Beurteilung von Manuskripten zu unterstützen.

Sein Andenken werden wir in Ehren halten.

Die Redaktion

#### M. S. Ghilarov

MERKURII S. GHILAROV was a wonderful man, an eminent zoologist, founder of soil zoology in the USSR, author of more than 600 publications on different aspects of biology.

His diverse scientific activity was aimed at studying the problems of phylogenesis, assimilation of land environment by arthropods, evaluation of the role of invertebrates in soil formation, in biological melioration of soils and their zoological diagnostics.

He was a biologist of a very broad profile, had wide knowledge in many areas of biology and adjacent disciplines, knew perfectly both Russian and world classical literature, had an intimate understanding of nature and of its reflection in painting and music.

DOI: 10.21248/contrib.entomol.36.2.207-208

MERKURII SERGEEVICH GHILAROV graduated from the Kiev State University in 1934. His first publication dealt with the comparative anatomy of teleostean fishes and he preserved his interest to comparative anatomy and evolutionary morphology during all his life.

After he graduated from the university he started working as an entomologist at one of the experimental stations in Ukraine. During these first years he formulated his ideas on the role of soil as a specific environment in the life of invertebrates and the role of invertebrates in soil formation.

In 1947 M. S. GHILAROV defended his doctoral thesis "The role of soil in insect evolution" and was awarded A. N. SEVERTZOV prize of the USSR Academy of Sciences for his work. In 1949 he published his monograph "Peculiarities of Soil as an Environment and Its Role in Insect Evolution" which became widely known and highly recognized by the specialists all over the world.

From the fifties he directs soil-zoological studies of various institutions in the USSR. His international scientific activity starts during this period as well: he made a great contribution to studies and organization of research pertaining to the development of the methods of control of the Colorado beetle. In 1956 he was elected to the Permanent Committee of Entomological Congresses, in 1968–1982 he acted as a Vice President and in 1984 he was unanimously elected as a Honorary member of this committee.

In the sixties he worked fruitfully on various aspects of applied soil zoology, organized a number of expeditions in different regions of the USSR, conducted field experiments.

In 1966 he was elected as a corresponding member and in 1974 as a full member (academician) of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1975–1985 he headed the Division of General Biology and was a member of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences. During many years (since 1968) he was the President of the USSR Entomological Society.

Since 1956 when the USSR entered the International Union of Biological Sciences, M. S. GHILAROV takes an active part in the activity of the National Committee of Soviet Biologists, first, as a scientific secretary and then as its chairman (from 1965). In 1968 he was elected as a member of the IUBS Executive Committee and in 1976–1982 he served as a Vice-President of the IUBS.

Academician M. S. GHILAROV was always actively supporting the development and strengthening of international scientific relations and made a great contribution to the scientific cooperation of biologists all over the world.

He was elected to many national and international societies and academies: Zoological Committee of the International Soil Society (1958), Academy of Zoology in Agra, India (1961), Entomological Societies of France (1960), Czechoslovakia (1965), Finland (1968), Sweden and Hungary (1972), Austria (1970), Poland (1978), INTECOL (1964), Museum of Natural History in Paris (1973), International Society of Social Insects (1974), MAB (1976), Royal Society in London (1979), etc.

He was awarded many prizes both in the USSR and abroad. He was also awarded high orders and medals by the Soviet Government.

Over 40 years he was working as a professor and headed chairs of invertebrate zoology at the Moscow Pedagogical Institute and during the last decade at the Moscow State University.

M. S. GHILAROV took an active part in the activities of many national and international scientific journals, he was also a member of the Editorial Board of "Biology International".

He actively participated in the activities of the IUBS more than 20 years and contributed to the strengthening of scientific cooperation, friendship and mutual understanding among biologists of various countries.

M. S. GHILAROV was a world wide known scientist, wonderful man and will be warmly remembered by his numerous colleagues and friends all over the world.

V. A. TOURCHANINOVA  
S. G. VASSETZKY