

IN MEMORIAM - OLGA KACHALOVA (1916-1988)

In December 1988 Olga Kachalova died in Riga; she was a freshwater hydrobiologist, well known also as a trichopterozoologist.

O. Kachalova, of Russian nationality, was born on 30 November 1916 in Lausanne, Switzerland, where her father had gone for medical treatment.

In 1922 her parents moved with her to Riga where she spent the rest of her life. From 1941 to 1949 she studied biology in Riga, taking zoology as her main subject, but specializing in entomology. She graduated from the University on 3 January 1949 as a zoologist. From 1940 to 1951 she worked in Riga as a teacher first in kindergarten than at a school.

In March 1951 she joined the staff of the Institute of Biology of the Latvian Academy of Sciences as a technical worker, but her goal was to become a research worker.

O. Kachalova took a great interest in art, and in 1949 she was enrolled at the Latvian Academy of Arts in Riga. However, in 1952 she gave up her art studies because she felt drawn towards scientific research.

This dream became reality on 16 April 1952 when she became a research worker of the Institute of Biology. The years 1951 and 1952 were a turning point in her career and determined her life as a scientist. She worked at the Institute of Biology first as a junior, later as a senior research worker until her full retirement on 15 February 1988. She made all the drawings in her scientific publications, and also took pleasure in painting water-colours of caddisflies and exquisite landscapes.

Caddisflies were her favourite subject of research. She chose them for her diploma paper when graduating from the University. S. Lepneva was the supervisor of her diploma paper and of her later research on caddisflies. However, she could not work exclusively on caddisflies at the Institute of Biology since the official topic of her work was the zoobenthos of lakes and rivers as well as studies of the influence of water pollution on freshwater fauna. Thus her research included also Oligochaeta, Mollusca and Ephemeroptera, where her studies were regarded by her colleagues as the most thorough on these groups in Latvia. Nevertheless, in her work on biological indicators in reservoirs she concentrated on caddisflies.

It was only in the two years when she took her post-graduate course, 1 November 1955 to 31 October 1957, that she could concentrate exclusively on caddisflies. In May 1958 in Riga after the successful defence of her thesis Caddisflies in the structure of bottom fauna of Latvian lakes and current waters she was awarded the degree of a Candidate of Science.

In 1973 at the Tartu University she defended her doctor's thesis on Caddisflies of Latvian Rivers. Material of the thesis was included in a separate book published 1972 in Riga which gave detailed descriptions of those invertebrates which most often coexisted with caddisflies. Attention should be drawn to her "Key to larvae of caddisflies of the European part of the USSR" published in 1977. Trichopterologists should remember that the book is not merely a scientific work but is also meant for practical workers who control pollution levels of waters. Unfortunately, the length of the work had to be cut so that the author could not include all the species. Her last important work was the "Key to adult caddisflies of the European part of the USSR". One shortcoming was insufficient consideration of the Carpathian fauna but nevertheless this work stands as a major contribution to the study of Trichoptera.

O.Kachalova published more than 100 scientific works (The following bibliography contains only those works dealing with caddisflies as well as some on zoobenthos of lakes, which contain data on caddisflies). The titles of these works indicate the range of her studies on Trichoptera.

All who met Dr.Kachalova were impressed by her kindness, her willingness to impart knowledge and her enthusiasm for her subject.

(Bibliography see overleaf)
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Luis REYES ARRUNATEGUI

Senior Biology student at the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo, Las Palmeras 488, Urb.Fatima, TRUJILLO, Peru.

Present interest: Trichoptera of Peru: Taxonomy, distribution, ecology, bionomics. Finish a catalogue or monograph of Trichoptera of Peru.

Previously studied: Rivers, streams and communities of freshwater from different biogeographical regions of Peru.

Information wanted: All information about holotypes and paratypes from Peru in museums and institutions around the world.

Other interests: Taxonomy of Odonata and aquatic Coleoptera of Peru.

Biodiversity of aquatic insects.

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NORWEGIAN CADDISFLY PUBLICATIONS 1879-1985.

This booklet of 34 pages was compiled by I.STOKKELAND and includes 153 titles. It can be bought from the Norwegian Entomological Society* for nkr. 30.- which is about \$ 5.-.

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