

IN MEMORIAM - OLGA KACHALOVA (1916-1988)

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

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.

1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to define the problem. This involves identifying the symptoms of the problem and determining the scope of the problem. Once the problem has been defined, the next step is to identify the causes of the problem. This involves identifying the factors that are contributing to the problem and determining the underlying causes. Once the causes have been identified, the next step is to develop a plan of action. This involves identifying the steps that need to be taken to solve the problem and determining the resources that will be needed to implement the plan. Finally, the last step in the process is to implement the plan and monitor the results. This involves putting the plan into action and tracking the progress of the solution to ensure that the problem is solved.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Trichoptera Newsletter](#)

Jahr/Year: 1989

Band/Volume: [16](#)

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