

L.A. Zhiltzova (1926-2015)

Dr. Lidija Andrejevna Zhiltzova, the grand old lady of Plecoptera research, passed away on September 13, 2015 in Karelia at the age of 89 years. Our science has lost a remarkable and productive student of the Plecoptera. Since the early sixties, Dr. Zhiltzova completed pioneer work throughout the former Soviet Union and adjacent countries, from the Carpathians in the west to the Kolyma River Basin in the East, from Novaja Zemlja in the north to Tien-shan and Pamir in the south. Her outstanding detailed illustrated publications set global standards. Lidija Andrejevna also worked with I. Levanidova and other Russian colleagues, with I. Sivec in Slovenija and with P. Zwick in Germany.

Only after the fall of the Iron Curtain, could Lidija Andrejevna visit other parts of the world. She attended the International Plecoptera and Ephemeroptera Symposia in Lausanne (1995) meeting for the first time colleagues from many countries, and also in Argentina (1998) and Italy (2001). She was an eager collector and very happy to take the only male of an *Anacroneuria* species collected during a private post-congress trip to Jujuy, Argentina; her two younger colleagues failed to collect any material.

In 1998, at the XIIIth International Symposium on Plecoptera which was held in conjunction with the IXth International Conference on Ephemeroptera at Tafi del Valle (Prov. Tucumán, Argentina) Lidija Andrejevna received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Plecopterists. The laudatio, an appraisal of her lifetime work, and brief notes on her private life were published in PERLA 17, 1999, together with a complete list of her publications.

Lidia Andrejevna was born February 2, 1926, in a family of workers at Kusty, in the Tambov Region SE of Moscow. Her childhood in the war years was difficult. In 1943, Lidija Andrejevna graduated from secondary school with honors. In 1944 she started to study at the Biological Faculty of Moscow State University, her main interest was insects. She graduated with top honors with a diploma thesis on cicadas of the genus *Macropsis* living on willows (1949). She was admitted to postgraduate studies and her PhD thesis "The insect-pests of acorns in the area of state shelterbelts at Kamyshin – Stalingrad" was defended in 1953.

Her studies earned Lidija Andrejevna an invitation to the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in then Leningrad, on the banks of the Neva River, opposite the Winterpalais. She worked there her entire lifetime on Plecoptera. Her collection is deposited at this institution. Lidija Andrejevna continued to work and publish beyond retirement age, also with several younger colleagues whom she had inspired to work with *vesnjanki*, the publication list in PERLA 17 is only current until 1999. The continuation and, unfortunately, the end of her impressive publication list is part of this obituary. It includes synopses of regional faunas as well as of the entire former Soviet Union. Lidija Andrejevna hoped to publish a comprehensive treatment of the stoneflies of this huge area in English and prepared a draft manuscript on Nemouroidea, in English. However, her monograph of the Euholognatha with her extraordinary detailed illustrations was eventually published in Russian (2003). Her plans to present a similar treatment of the Systellognatha were not completed.

Lidija Andrejevna was a very pleasant guest and became a personal friend. However, she never disclosed much of her private life. During an expedition to Svanetia in 1957, she met Yury A. Leister a student from the Tbilisi Pedagogical Institute. Later, he became her faithful companion of life. Yury Alexandrovich of German descent was born in 1921, in Georgia. At the end of the World War II, he was subjected to political repression in the Gulag (1945-1954), and was rehabilitated completely only in 1965. Yury Alexandrovich provided outstanding help and support to the work of Lidija Andrejevna, he stayed at home and cared for their two small children. This allowed Lidija Andrejevna to engage in scientific field work and expeditions. Lidija Andrejevna cared for her sick husband until his death in 2000. Subsequently, she spent part of the summers in Karelia with her daughter Natasha and family.

The memory of Lidija Andrejevna Zhiltzova will live forever, by her example of excellent scientific work and through the many taxa (4 genera, 135 species and subspecies) she named from a vast part of Eurasia.

The numerous patronyms named in her honour remind us of her noteworthy scientific impact that she had: *Amphinemura zhiltzovae* Joost, 1970; *Chloroperla zhiltzovae* Zwick, 1967; *Leuctra zhiltzovae* Theischinger, 1976; *Neoperla zhiltzovae* Teslenko 2012; *Protonemura zhiltzovae* Vincon & Ravizza, 2005; *Sweltsa zhiltzovae* Zwick, 2010; *Sylvoperlodes zhiltzovae* Sinitshenkova, 1987; *Zhiltzovaia* Özdikmen, 2008 (= *Aubertiana* Zhiltzova, 2005, not Victorov, 1970 [Hymenoptera]); *Zhiltzovia* Ricker et Ross, 1975 [Plecoptera]; *Ecdyonurus (Afghanurus) zhiltzovae* (Bajkova 1975); *Notacanthurus zhiltzovae* (Tshernova 1972); *Rhithrogena zhiltzovae* Sinichenkova, 1979 [Ephemeroptera]; *Asynarchus zhiltzovae* Kumanski, 1981; *Drusus zhiltzovae* Malicki & Olah, 1979 [Trichoptera]; *Sialis zhiltzovae* Vshivkova, 1985 [Megaloptera]; *Diamesa zhiltzovae* Makarchenko, 1989; *Krenosmittia zhiltzovae* Makarchenko & Makarchenko, 2006; *Simulium (Nevermannia) zhiltzovae* Rubtsov, 1976 [Diptera]; *Sikhotealinia zhiltzovae* Lafer, 1996 [Coleoptera]; *Wesmaelius (Kimminsia) zhiltzovae* Makarkin, 1986 [Neuroptera]; *Neobisium zhiltzovae* Čurčić, 1984 [Pseudoscorpiones].

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Artikel/Article: [Obituary: L.A. Zhiltzova \(1926-2015\) 38-39](#)