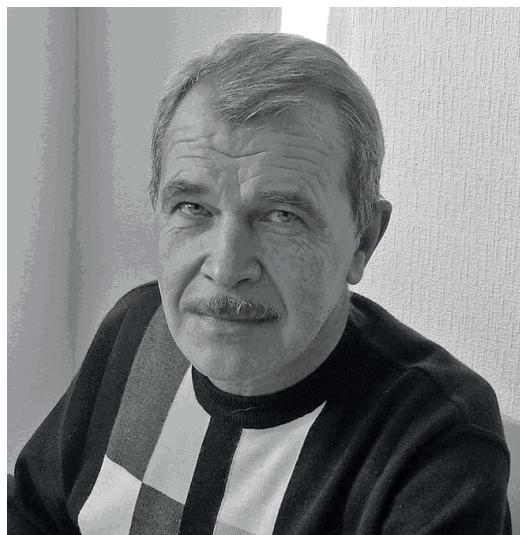


## IN MEMORY OF OLEKSANDR PUTCHKOV



On April 30, 2021, at the age of almost 67, died prof. dr hab. Oleksandr Putchkov – entomologist, outstanding expert in the field of systematics and taxonomy of beetles, long-term head of the laboratory of scientific collections of the Institute of Zoology on behalf of I. I. Schmalhausen at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kiev. He survived many (more for 60!) scientific expeditions to the mountains of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Siberia and the Far East, but the raging epidemic killed him.

His death was a heavy loss for the entomological community of Europe, for all his colleagues and friends. Prof. Putchkov was a full member of the Ukrainian, Russian, Austrian and Czech Entomological Societies; since 2007 he was the First Vice President of the Ukrainian Entomological Society.

He had had a great job as a chief-editor of the “Ukrainian Entomological Journal”, as a scientific editor of the “Vestnik Zoologii”, as well as a member of the editorial boards of the “Entomological Review”, “News of the Kharkov Entomological Society” and “Biology and Valeology.”

He was born on the 5th September 1954 in Kiev in the family of the famous Ukrainian entomologists Lydia and Vasily Puchkov, who were one of the leading experts of the former USSR in taxonomy, morphology and evolution of Heteroptera.

After graduating ordinary school in 1974, he entered the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy which he graduated in 1977 with a degree in zoology and entomology. For the next five years he worked as a senior laboratory assistant and agronomist at the Institute of Plant Protection.

In 1982 he entered the graduate school in the Institute of Zoology of Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, which later became his place of work. In 1985, he defended Ph.D. thesis "Coleoptera of the wheat field of the steppe zone of Ukraine."

Since 1985 to 2016 he worked his way up from a junior researcher of the entomology department to the head of the laboratory of scientific fund entomological collections of the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. From July to November 1986 he took part in the liquidation of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Habilitation took place in 2004. The theme of the habilitation was: "Larvae of tiger beetles (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae) of the world fauna and a general overview of sub-tribe Cicindelina of the Palaearctic."

In 2018, he received the title of professor in biological sciences, and in 2020 he became a laureate prize of the I. I. Schmalhausen of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

His research interests covered the faunistic, taxonomy, morphology, and ecology of ground and tiger beetles (Coleoptera, Caraboidea) of the Palaearctic. He is the author over 265 scientific publications, including six monographs; he described about 20 new taxa of Carabidae and Cicindelidae.

The main object of his studies over the past 30 years has been the larvae of tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) of the world fauna. During this time, he described the larvae of more than 50 species of all tribes from all the continents.

It is no exaggeration to say that prof. Putchkov was the only specialist in the world on the larvae of Cicindelidae and his death is a truly irreplaceable loss.

During last five years three post-graduate students defended their Ph.D. theses under his supervision.

Over the past seven years, prof. O. Putchkov collaborated with the Pomeranian Academy. He was employed as visiting professor at the Institute of Biology and Earth Sciences. He conducted lectures and tutorials in "Applied entomology."

The cooperation also included scientific research on the fauna of Pomerania, which was presented in 3 scientific articles. The publishing house's plan also includes a joint monograph "The Checklist of ground beetles (Coleoptera, Carabidae) of Poland, Ukraine, Belarus' and Lithuania."

Diligence, fairness and kindness towards colleagues and students are the features that distinguished professor Oleksandr Putchkov in his everyday professional life. His substantive advice, good words and extraordinary sense of humor will always be missing.

Oleg Aleksandrowicz

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