

In Memory of G. S. Medvedev (1931–2009)

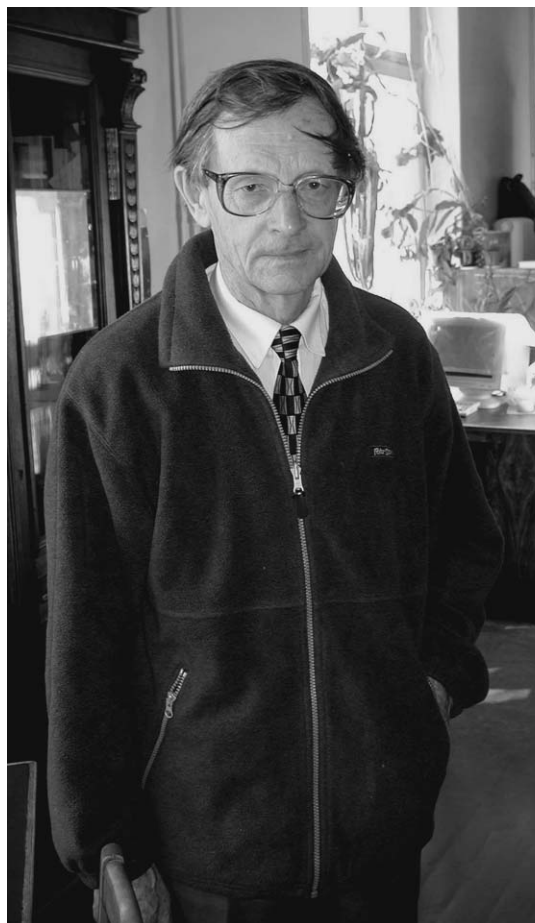
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Gleb Sergeevich Medvedev was born on January 21, 1931, in Askania-Nova Village (Novotroitsk District, Kherson Province), in the family of the talented biologist Sergei Ivanovich Medvedev, one of the best world experts in lamellicorn beetles and one of the most competent entomologists in the USSR. Gleb Sergeevich inherited love for nature from his father. In 1950 he entered the Biological Faculty of Kharkov State University and on graduating from it, on November 1, 1955 he got a postgraduate scholarship the Zoological Institute (ZIN) of the USSR Academy of Sciences, already possessing good knowledge of insects and experience in field work. His candidate's thesis *The Types of Eco-Morphological Adaptations of Darkling Beetles (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae) of Turkmenia* was supervised by O.L. Kryzhanovskij. In the course of this work Gleb Sergeevich took part in expeditions in different regions of Turkmenia (West Kopet Dag, Badghyz, and Southeast Kara Kum). In December 1960 the head of the laboratory A.A. Stakelberg wrote to the ZIN management: "G.S. Medvedev is undoubtedly one of the most promising researchers in the Department [of Coleoptera] and there is reason to suppose that he will become one of its leading scientists." Having successfully maintained his thesis on May 4, 1961 at A.N. Severtsov Institute for Animal Morphology in Moscow, G.S. Medvedev was appointed secretary of the journal *Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie* [Russian for "Entomological Review"] in 1962. His series of papers on the taxonomy, biology, and eco-morphological adaptations of darkling beetles of Turkmenia was awarded the first prize at the annual ZIN competition for the best scientific publication in 1963. On September 1, 1965 Gleb Sergeevich got a position of senior researcher and on September 20, acting head of the Laboratory of Insect Systematics, and on December 18 he was elected to this position.

In 1968, G.S. Medvedev published a volume *The Darkling Beetles (Tenebrionidae). Subfamily Opatrinae*



nae in the *Fauna of the USSR* series, which in 1969 he submitted as doctoral thesis. This book contained a detailed morphological review of darkling beetles and analysis of their distribution with respect to different soil types in Middle Asia; the geographic distribution and specific evolutionary traits of this group were considered, and 21 new species was described. On April 18, 1969 Gleb Sergeevich got his Doctoral degree in Biology. In 1971–1973 he took part in the Soviet-Mongolian complex biological expedition; in 1974 he was sent to Iran as a member of the USSR

Academic mission; in 1978, to Vietnam; in 1979, to Australia; in 1980, to Hungary for participating in the work of the Standing Organizing Committee of International Symposia on Insect Fauna of Middle Europe. In 1981 Gleb Sergeevich again went to Mongolia, and in 1982, to Sri Lanka. In 1976 he replaced A.A. Stackelberg, who died in 1975, as Chief Editor of the *Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie*. On January 9, 1981 G.S. Medvedev was conferred the academic title of Professor.

In 1985, *Key to the Darkling Beetles of Turkmenia* written in collaboration with M.G. Nepesova was published in Ashkhabad. In this book, Gleb Sergeevich described 33 new species, two of them, in collaboration with M.G. Nepesova and one, with A.V. Bogachev; the key includes 111 genera and 304 species. Since 1984, Gleb Sergeevich had been a member of the standing committee on holding international entomological congresses. In 1985 Gleb Sergeevich was elected President of the All-Union Entomological Society. He was general editor of numerous volumes of *Keys to the Insects of the European Part of the USSR* devoted to lepidopterans and hymenopterans. In 1990 Gleb Sergeevich published excellently illustrated *Keys to the Darkling Beetles of Mongolia* which included 50 genera and 193 species with detailed chapters devoted to the biotopic and zonal distribution of the species studied.

On March 25, 1991 G.S. Medvedev was awarded the title of Honored Science Worker of the RSFSR. In 1992 the second part of the III volume of *Keys to Insects of the Far East* was published, which contained a section on darkling beetles (55 genera and 103 species) written by Gleb Sergeevich and illustrated with a great number of original drawings. In 1996 Gleb Sergeevich was awarded the E.N. Pavlovsky Prize for a series of works on the morphology of darkling beetles. In collaboration with A.L. Lobanov he suggested new approaches to the use of faunistic data in computer-assisted zoogeographical regionalization. Altogether, G.S. Medvedev described more than 250 new taxa of beetles.

G.S. Medvedev always focused his attention on the functional and evolutionary significance of the structures and phenomena. This feature became evident already in his first large publications and was brilliantly revealed in his revision *Evolution and System of Darkling Beetles of the tribe Blaptini (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae)* (2001). Based of studies of external genitalia and female genital ducts in species of this

tribe and data on their distribution in the mountains of Middle and Central Asia, Gleb Sergeevich revealed the ways of development of isolating mechanisms in large genera of apterous darkling beetles. The large-scale study of the mouthparts, cranial and abdominal musculature, the antennal sensory structures, and genitalia of both sexes allowed him to determine the main trends of evolutionary transformations of different structures and organs of darkling beetles and establish well grounded concepts of life strategies in different groups of this family.

G.S. Medvedev supervised 10 candidate's and 3 doctoral theses; he was an editor of more than 20 books published by the Zoological Institute, a member of its editorial-advisory board and also the editorial boards of the journals *Beiträge zur Entomologie* (Germany) and *Biologia* (Slovakia). He also headed the Specialized Council on doctoral theses in the fields of entomology and parasitology.

At work, we all shared the same interests; Gleb Sergeevich was an agreeable colleague: you could ask him any difficult question and he would always answer it, sometimes delaying his reply to check the reference books at home. He was always close by, a responsive interlocutor. He used to tell stories about his trips to Dibuny at tea in the Department of Coleoptera. We always tried to have these tea parties with him as often as it was possible. We miss him very much, now that he has left us and his slight figure will never be glimpsed in our long hallway.

We are deeply grateful to his colleagues and co-authors A.L. Lobanov (ZIN), Dr. O. Merkl (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest), and M.V. Nabozhenko (Azov Branch of Murmansk Marine Biological Institute, Kola Scientific Center of RAS, the Institute for Arid Zones, Rostov-on-Don), and also the Manager of the ZIN library Mrs L.P. Grozdilova for their help in compiling the list of publications of Gleb Sergeevich Medvedev.

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