

IN MEMORIAM



18.III.1921-7.VI.2006

On June 7th, 2006, the Cytogenetical and Karyosystematical sciences suffered a stunning loss: Prof. Dr. **Lydia Archipovna Chubareva**, a founder of Karyosystematics of Invertebrates in the former USSR, passed away at the age of eighty-five.

On August 28-30th, 2006 the Fourth International Conference on Karyosystematics of Invertebrates (Karyo-4) took place at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. The Conference was held in memory of Prof. Dr. **Lydia Archipovna Chubareva**. Lydia Archipovna took a keen interest in the Conference in the months before her death and it now becomes a fitting memorial to her.

Lydia Archipovna was born in Leningrad (at present St. Petersburg, Russia) on March 18th, 1921. She entered Leningrad State University in 1938 and graduated from the Department of Genetics of the University in 1942. She received a PhD degree in Genetics at the University in 1956, and a D.Sc. degree in Entomology at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1986.

Few scientists have had as long, sustained, and influential a career as Lydia Archipovna. She held positions at Leningrad State University (1942-1965) and at the Zoological Institute RAS (1965-1986). She was a pioneer in the Karyosyste-

matics of Diptera, and her research contributions to this area led quickly to worldwide recognition and influenced the course of its development. Lydia Archipovna published over 150 scientific publications during her career, including 20 papers, which she published after her retirement from the Zoological Institute in 1986. She was working enthusiastically and productively right until her last day. Lydia Archipovna's papers, especially her celebrated survey (co-authored by her closest colleague N.A. Petrova), entitled "Karyotypes of blackflies (Diptera, Simuliidae) of the World" (*Entomol. Obozr.* 2003, 82(1): 157-222), carried her educational message to the blackfly specialists and will never lose their important implications for science.

In addition to her pioneering research contributions, Lydia Archipovna was known for having been a highly influential educator. In the early 1950s, she established at Leningrad State University the first karyosystematical science education program in USSR, and led this program for almost 50 years, initially at the University and, subsequently, at the Zoological Institute RAS. Lydia

Archipovna was a superb teacher, and her courses deeply influenced many of the students attending them.

In 1965, Lydia Archipovna established the newly formed Karyosystematic Department at the Zoological Institute and shaped its academic development for many years. This Department turned out to have a lasting impact on the evolution of karyosystematical science in USSR and, thereafter, in Russia. She played a major role in establishing Karyosystematics of Invertebrates in the former USSR and served as a source of professional inspiration and as a role model for generations of young students and researchers. As a mentor to aspiring researchers of the Department, Lydia Archipovna advised numerous junior researchers and post-graduate students, who went on to have their own successful research careers. With respect to students, she was greatly admired as a major professor, and guided over 20 students to the PhD, and dozens to the MSc degree. Her students were often from foreign countries and returned to their homelands after obtaining their degrees. Many of her former students hold important positions in academia and scientific institutes in the former USSR.

Apart from Lydia Archipovna's teaching and academic careers, she was a very warm and talented person. Her love of culture led to a life-long interest in literature, art and music. She enjoyed singing, composed music, played the piano and wrote poetry.

The first issue of the Journal "Comparative Cytogenetics" contains research contributions and surveys written by Lydia Archipovna's former students and close collaborators based on their reports presented during "Karyo-4". In some cases the contributions are co-authored by researchers who were not fortunate enough to be close to Lydia Archipovna or even to have met her in person. We are sure that she would have enjoyed reading these papers, and we regret that we cannot have her reaction to them. In addition to papers dealing with several invertebrate groups, the issue contains Lydia Archipovna's own review (co-authored by Dr. N.A. Petrova) of chromosomal characters of the family Simuliidae, the group, which has been the main objective of her long-term outstanding research.

I had the pleasure of working with Lydia Archipovna during very many years. She was my PhD supervisor from 1965 to 1968, my Laboratory Head from 1965 to 1986 and, subsequently, my colleague up to her death in 2006. I would like to express my deepest thanks to her for teaching me what a real researcher is. I am sure that Lydia Archipovna professionally enriched the Karyosystematical science community and personally touched the lives of all the people who knew her.

Lydia Archipovna will be remembered by her colleagues for the high quality of her science and productivity, and by all for her dedication, sincerity, warmth, and capacity to enjoy life to its fullest.

*V.G. Kuznetsova
Zoological Institute Russian Academy
of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia*