

THE SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF ACADEMIAN B. E. BYCHOWSKY

On August 27, 1968 the member of the Editorial Council of *Folia parasitologica*, Director of the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Academician Boris Evseevich Bychowsky celebrated his 60-th birthday and 40-th anniversary of his scientific, pedagogical and public activities. On behalf of the Editorial Board of *Folia parasitologica* and of the Czechoslovak parasitologists and zoologists I wish him many happy returns of the day and further great successes in his favourite research field and scientific-organisational work.

With his basic work „Monogenetic Trematodes, Their Systematics and Phylogeny” Academician Bychowsky has taken a prominent place in the history of parasitology and zoology of invertebrates. This monograph marks off thirty years of his work on taxonomy, larval stages, life cycles, ecology and comparative studies with other Plathelminthes. In his previous works he has already demonstrated that it is erroneous to consider Monogenea to be related to digenetic trematodes. In 1937 he concluded that Trematoda as perceived at that time formed a heterogenetic group and therefore singled out Monogenea as a distinct class. In his concept he has come very near the natural system of this class. Thanks to Bychowsky Monogenea constitute a class the taxonomy of which, from families onwards, is arranged in such a manner that it greatly corresponds with the actual phylogenetic relationships. As a pupil of Professor V. A. Dogel, the well known scientist engaged in the studies of zoology of invertebrates and ecological parasitology who was guiding his work during his studies at the Leningrad University, he demonstrated in the thirties that parasites of fishes might serve as indicators of phylogenetic relationships between their hosts.

He participated in many expeditions to largest water basins of the USSR and to the world seas

(eastern and southeastern seas of Asia, tropical part of the Pacific Ocean, the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, the Adriatic Sea etc.) and collected material on which he could base his research on Monogenea of sea fishes and revise all existing knowledge on this subject. In 1961, on the initiative of the American Biological Institute his basic monograph was translated into English.

Especially important has also been his co-authorship of the pioneer work “Key to Parasites of Freshwater Fishes of the USSR”. To date he has published more than 100 scientific works.

On graduating at the university in 1929 B. E. Bychowsky worked until 1935 in the laboratory for parasitology of fishes at the Institute of Fisheries, under the guidance of V. A. Dogel. In 1935 he transferred to the parasitological department of the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences where he conducted helminthological research. In 1962 he was made Director of this distinguished zoological research centre in the USSR. In 1960 he was elected Corresponding Member and four years later Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The greater part of his energy and talent has been lately devoted to the organisational activities in science. Since 1963 he has been acting as Secretary of the General Biology Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences and is a member of its praesidium.

Czechoslovak zoologists and parasitologists know him as a sincere friend of this country who has promoted a successful collaboration between the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Institute he is heading, ever since the beginning of the active scientific relations between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

Prof. Dr. B. Rosický, D.Sc.

