

60th birthday of Dr. Alexandr Vladimirovich Gussev, D.Sc.

Dr. Alexandr Vladimirovich Gussev, D.Sc. of the Department of Parasitology, Zoological Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, is sixty this year. He is an outstanding parasitologist and the results of his scientific activities are highly appreciated both by the Soviet and foreign specialists.



Dr. Gussev was born in Korooha in the province Kur on 5th July 1917. Having passed the secondary school, he started his studies at the Faculty of Biology of the State University in Leningrad in 1934. Already during the studies he began a research work under the heading of Prof. V. A. Dogel. He was particularly engaged in the studies of the group of parasitic copepods from fishes of the Sea of Japan. After graduation in 1939 he became scientific-technical worker at the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Leningrad and continued his research begun at the time of his university studies. Unfortunately, his work was soon interrupted by the World War II.

After demobilization he returned again to the Zoological Institute and already in 1951

he published first-rate paper on parasitic copepods. The exactness and care in drawing the illustrations was one of the reasons leading to his later orientation to the methodically difficult studies of Monogenoidea. Under the heading of Academician B. E. Bykhovsky, Dr. Gussev managed to carry out in a relatively short time the studies of a comprehensive material of Monogenoidea from fishes of the Amur River basin and to discover here practically a new fauna—more than 90 new species, to which another 30 were added later on. Owing to his ability of analytical way of thinking, this work resulted in an excellent morphological-zoogeographical analysis of the fauna of the Far East and A. V. Gussev thus ranged himself with outstanding Soviet and world parasitologists.

In cooperation with Dr. I. V. Kulemina he succeeded in discovering and verifying experimentally the relationships between morphological criteria of some Monogenoidea and the size and age of their hosts. According to Academician B. E. Bykhovsky, this discovery was of great importance not only to the parasitology, but also to the systematics and species problem in general.

Thanks to A. V. Gussev also the number of known species of fresh-water Monogenoidea from South Asia increased almost by one third. This is evidenced in his monographic paper published in *Ind. J. Helminth.* 25 and 26: 1–241, 1976, in which also the analysis of world fauna of this group of parasites is submitted for the first time.

Nearly 100 papers including among others descriptions of more than 200 new species, 7 genera, 1 subfamily and 1 family are the results of his scientific activity of 40 years. But Dr. Gussev should be given credit also for his teaching and consulting activities, since he supervised the studies of many Soviet and foreign postgraduate students.

Czechoslovak parasitologists, who know Dr. A. V. Gussev as talented scientist and modest man, wish him good health and all success both in his scientific work and private life.

Dr. R. Ergens, C.Sc.