

## Aleksandr Prokofyevich Markevich is 75 — an appreciation of his contributions to parasitology



If we examine the long list of scientific publications of A. P. Markevich, Academician of the Ukrainian SSR, Professor, Doctor of Sciences (V. P. Koval, G. V. Boshko: Oleksandr Prokopovich Markevich, Akademia nauk URSR, Bibliografia uchenikh Ukrainskoi RSR, "Naukova dumka", Kiiiv 1975), we also notice his papers which appeared in Czechoslovak scientific journals. In them he informs the Czechoslovak parasitological, veterinary and biologic public about new trends in parasitology and ichthyology which he has founded in his country. He reports about the activities of the Ukrainian parasitologists and the Society of Parasitologists which he has founded holding the office of its President over 35 years. Academician A. P. Markevich paid several visits to Czechoslovakia, is a personal friend of a number of Czech and Slovak parasitologists. He became a member of the Editorial Council of *Folia parasitologica* and received several commemorative medals from Czechoslovak universities. On his initiative extensive studies were begun on the flora and fauna of the Carpathians in cooperation with the parasitologists of the USSR, Czechoslovakia,

Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and at present these investigations are being included in a number of research projects in the countries over whose territory the Carpathian mountain system is running.

At present Academician A. P. Markevich heads the parasitological research carried out in the Ukrainian SSR. His important anniversary simultaneously marks 55 years of his scientific activities. He is Professor of the Kiev State University, Head of the Parasitology Department of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, Honoured Scientist, member of many editorial and scientific boards. He was elected Corresponding member of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences in 1948 and Academician in 1957.

Aleksandr Prokofyevich Markevich was born 19 March 1905 in the village Ploskoye of the Kiev region, in a peasant's family. Already during his studies at the Pedagogical technical school (1921-1925) in Belaya Tserkov he became engaged in the research on ichthyology. He continued his studies at the university in Kiev where he worked in the laboratory of I. I. Shmalgauzen and simultaneously at the biological station of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences situated on the Dnieper river. His keen interest in the parasites of fishes led him to work at the Ichthyological Institute of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Leningrad (now the Research Institute of the Lake and River Fish Industry), where he completed his post-graduate studies under the guidance of Professor V. A. Dogel. In the thirties a team of scientists of the Laboratory of Fish Diseases headed by V. A. Dogel laid the foundations of the Soviet ichthyoparasitology. At this laboratory the young Markevich began to study the then little known and very complicated group Copepoda parasitica and with extraordinary diligence and perseverance treated the fauna of this group living in lakes Ladoga and Onega, in the Caspian and Azov seas and in a number of smaller water reservoirs. During his stay in Leningrad he also dealt with other groups of fish parasites. He was one of the first Soviet parasitologists who began a systematic research of fishes in the fishpond culture. He was the first to publish in the world literature the statement that the dangerous fish parasite *Chilodonella cyprini* reproduces massively in the winter and not in the summer, as supposed earlier.

In 1935 he returned to Kiev where he at first headed the Invertebrate Morphology Department of the Zoological Institute, the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, but in 1937 he became