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Significant anniversary of I. E. Bykhovskaya—Pavlovskaya

Irina Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya belongs to the leading Soviet parasitologists who have influenced the advancement of Czechoslovak parasitology and relevant disciplines. She promoted the development of the research on trematodes of birds and fishes and in long-time collaboration with her father, Academician E. N. Pavlovsky, she was also helpful in developing the research on natural focality of diseases. During her visits to Czechoslovakia, either alone or accompanying her father, she set up many ties of friendship which still exist today.

I. E. Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya, doctor of biological sciences and a long-time senior scientist at the Zoological Institute, the USSR Academy of Sciences, celebrated her 70th birthday and 50 years of scientific career on 19 April 1980. She was born and brought up in the family of a military surgeon, later the outstanding zoologist-parasitologist, the founder of the Soviet school of medical parasitology and the discoverer of the biological law on natural focality of diseases, Academician E. N. Pavlovsky. This fact predetermined the interests of I. E. Bykhovskaya. After completing her secondary school education in 1926, she entered the Natural History Department of the Physical and Mathematical Faculty, the Leningrad University and began her specialization at the Chair of Invertebrate Zoology headed by Prof. V. A. Dogel'. At this period the scientific discipline of ecological parasitology was started and I. E. Bykhovskaya became one of its first students. After graduation in 1930 she worked for several years at the Borodino Biological Station in Karelia, studying the parasite fauna of

fishes in the adjoining water reservoirs. From 1937 she had been employed as junior scientist and later (from 1944) as senior scientist at the Zoological Institute, the USSR Academy of



Sciences. For a short time during the Great Patriotic war and the blockade of Leningrad (1941—1944) she worked at the Tadzhik branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1941 she

was awarded the Candidate of Sciences degree using for her thesis "Parasite fauna of the perch and its dynamics", and in 1956 she received her Doctor of Sciences degree, submitting her dissertation entitled "Flukes of USSR birds".

The basic problems studied by I. E. Bykhovskaya are general problems of ecological parasitology, parasite fauna of fishes and birds, systematics, morphology and zoogeography of trematodes. She released a total of 70 publications, among which notable are the well-known book "Parasitological investigations of fishes" (Methodical text-book, 1952 and 1969 editions), the monograph "Bird trematodes of the USSR fauna (Ecological-geographical survey)", 1962 and the Chapter "Digenetic flukes" in the Key to the parasites of freshwater fishes of the USSR, 1962. The collection of trematodes assembled by her at the Institute of Zoology, USSR Academy of Sciences, has no equal both in quantity and quality of preparations.

I. E. Bykhovskaya is an indefatigable field investigator and a recognized world authority in trematodology. She often represented the Soviet parasitology at international symposia and congresses and as a member of scientific delegations in Denmark, Italy, Poland, England, France and other countries. Much of her time and energy are devoted to her work as consultant and supervisor of young specialists, actively promoting the scientific advance of parasitologists. Pointed out should be her services in the education of national cadres of parasitologists in the Tadzhik SSR and other republics.

The Czechoslovak parasitologists had the opportunity of hearing and later publishing her introductory paper "To the methods and problems of parasitological investigations of animals bound to aquatic environment" at the symposium organized by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences "Parasitic Worms and Aquatic Conditions" (Proceedings of a Symp. held in Prague on October 29th-November 2nd 1962, Publ. House Czechoslovak Academy

Sci., Prague, pp. 29—36, 1964). They also appreciated her consultations and her visits to Czechoslovakia, when she accompanied Academician E. N. Pavlovsky, e.g. during the Symposium on Theoretical Questions of Natural Foci of Diseases held in Prague November 26—29, 1963. After the demise of her father she has been keeping continuous contacts with scientists engaged in the research of natural focality of diseases not only in Czechoslovakia, but in other countries as well.

For her services she received many awards and honours from the directors of the Zoological Institute, the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology, the Tadzhik SSR Academy of Sciences and was honoured by the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1953 she was awarded the Medal for Labour Valour by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet for prolonged meritorious service and unexceptionable work in science. In 1976 she was decorated with the Cyril and Method Order of First Class by a decree of the State Council of People's Republic of Bulgaria for great contributions to the development of cooperation in the field of science and culture.

I. E. Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya has been active not only as a scientist, but as a public figure as well: in 1950—1952 she served as Deputy of the Leningrad district Soviet of Working People's Deputies. She has been the Communist Party member since 1943.

At present I. E. Bykhovskaya is in excellent "working form", always charming, of ready sympathy and consideration for her colleagues. She enjoys her leisure in the family circle, is great friend of her granddaughter Tanya. We wish her good health and every success in her creative work in the coming years.

Prof. Dr. E. V. Gvozdev, D.Sc., Prof. Dr. Yu. Polyansky, D.Sc., Dr. A. V. Gussev, C.Sc. and Prof. Dr. B. Rosicky, D.Sc.