

## The 60th birthday of K. M. Ryzhikov

Professor Konstantin Minayevich Ryzhikov, Corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., celebrated his 60th anniversary on September 26, 1972. Professor Ryzhikov, one of the pupils of Academician K. I. Skryabin, is a renowned Soviet helminthologist. His interest in biology, and particularly in entomology and ornithology, dates back to his school years and initiated his early studies on parasitic helminths of birds. These problems have been the principal subject of his extensive studies. Professor Ryzhikov started his scientific career as a postgraduate student at the Academy of Sciences, White-Russian SSR in Minsk under the leadership of Professor R. S. Shults. His studies on the family Syngamidae were interrupted by World War 2, when he joined the Soviet army and returned home as late as in 1947. He took up his studies under the leadership of Academician K. I. Skryabin, having joined the Helminthological Laboratory, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.



Moscow. His large monograph on "Syngamids of domestic and wild animals" (1949) is one of the fundamental sources of knowledge of these parasites. Having finished this monograph, Professor Ryzhikov took up investigations on bird helminths, particularly waterbirds, and on the helminths of mammals. These studies resulted in a number of papers on the fauna, taxonomy, ecology, biology, specificity and geography of helminths, containing also descriptions of numerous new taxa. His books "The helminths of domestic and waterbirds", "Helminths of domestic fowls" (in collaboration with A. N. Chertkova) and "Helminths of leporids" (in collaboration with E. V. Gvozdev, V. L. Kontrimavichus, L. S. Shaldybin)

are a source of valuable information for students, zootechnicians, veterinarians and hunters.

Professor Ryzhikov's contribution to the solution of general biological problems in helminthology is reflected in his work on reservoir (paratenic) parasitism. He was the first to suggest a classification of the various forms of this phenomenon, arousing thus the interest of numerous parasitologists at home and abroad in these problems.

All his studies are based on his experience gained during the numerous helminthological expeditions to various parts of the U.S.S.R. Professor Ryzhikov participated in the expedition to the Pechora River in 1947, to western Georgia (1948), to the Baikal Lake (1949), the Amu-Darja delta, and the river-basin of the Murgab (1952), to Central Yakutsk (1953 to 1956), the mouth of the Lena River (1957) and the river-basin of the Amur (1958—1960). In this way he obtained extensive knowledge on helminths in their natural external environment influencing their development and distribution, and on the conditions of life of their hosts. On the basis of this valuable knowledge he presented a clear definition of several laws governing the biology and geography of helminths.

This knowledge he has always passed on to his younger colleagues and has trained first-class specialists in these fields. Apart from his academic and scientific qualities, Professor Ryzhikov is an excellent organizer. He is Head of the Section of Biology and Zoogeography of Helminths, Helminthological Laboratory, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., Editor in Chief of the Zoological Journal, member of the editorial board of *Parasitologia* and *Trudy Gelm. Lab.*, Akad. Nauk SSSR, and of a number of other helminthological annuals. He has also, for many years, been Academician-Secretary of the Department of General Biology, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R. Professor Ryzhikov is well-known in parasitological circles at home and abroad. He participated in numerous international congresses and conferences held in Europe and his papers have always been a valuable asset to these meetings.

For many years, Professor Ryzhikov has kept up close contacts with his colleagues in Czechoslovakia and he has many friends there, who value particularly his modesty and friendliness and acknowledge highly his scientific qualities. They all wish to congratulate Professor Ryzhikov on the occasion of this 60th birthday, wishing him sound health, personal happiness and success in the years to come.

*Dr. B. Ryšavý, D.Sc.*