



In memoriam

Assoc. professor Dimo Kirilov Bozhkov, PhD (1922-2009)

On 2 November 2009 in Sofia deceased the famous Bulgarian zoologist and parasitologist assoc. professor Dimo Kirilov Bozhkov, PhD. He was born in Plovdiv on 23 April 1922 and graduated in Biology from Sofia University in 1947. He worked as an assistant at the Department of Zoology of Invertebrates at Sofia University, as an expert in Sofia Zoo and as a researcher at the Institute of Zoology as well as in the Central Laboratory of Helminthology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He specialized in the field of Helminthology at the Institute of Zoology of Russian Academy of Sciences and St Petersburg University.

At the beginning of his scientific work Dr D. Bozhkov investigated the biology of malaria mosquitoes in Bulgaria aiming at supporting their control and later on widened his investigations on the composition and morphology of all Culicidae and Anophelidae in Bulgaria. The results from his studies were published in the monograph 'Blood sucking mosquitoes in Bulgaria' (1992) in which information is given on the composition, morphology, distribution and ecology of 39 species blood sucking mosquitoes inhabiting the country.

Another main stream in the investigation activity of Dr Bozhkov was studying of the helminth fauna of the amphibians and reptiles in Bulgaria. Parallel with his investigations on the composition, morphology and distribution of trematodes of the animals investigated he also dealt with systematic and deep studies of their life cycles and biological peculiarities. He introduced and gave arguments for first time in the Helminthology the categories 'polyvalent hosts' and 'postcycle parasitism' and clarified their importance in trematode evolution. Dr Bozhkov generalized the results from these long-term investigations in his monograph 'Helminths. Life cycles and their evolution' (1982). In this cited monograph and in many scientific articles he gave arguments towards more than 10 regularities, named by him rules, on the life cycles realization in helminthes. An interesting problem studied by Dr Bozhkov was also the problem of cannibalism in animals to which he dedicated the monograph 'The cannibalism in animal world' (1992, 2005). Main part of the scientific works of Dr Bozhkov (totally over 50) were published in the issues of Institute of Zoology - BAS, other part - in German and Russian scientific Journals.

Assoc. professor Dr D. Bozhkov is one of the most active and productive popularizing science in Bulgaria during the second half of XX century. He was the author 26 popular books and over 700 popular articles, interviews and other materials published in scores scientific journals, magazines and newspapers in the country. Many contemporary zoologists and ecologists in Bulgaria were inspired and made their first steps in the science under the influence of his talented written books and papers on animals of Bulgaria and the world.

With the decease of assoc. prof. Dr D. Bozhkov Bulgarian zoological science lost one of its most erudite, active and productive researchers and popularizes.

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