

IN MEMORIAM: ALEXANDRA SHMELEVA
(17.05.1926 – 04.01.2021)



On 4 January, 2021, Alexandra Shmeleva, one of the world’s most famous copepodologists, PhD, the oldest researcher at the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, passed away at the age of 94.

All the scientific activity of Alexandra Shmeleva for almost half a century (since 1957) was inseparably connected with the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas. Her research was focused on the copepods of the World Ocean, in particular *Calocalanus* (Calanoida) and *Oncaea* (Cyclopoida). The study of copepods was the meaning and purpose of her life, and such dedication to science aroused great respect.

In 1960–1970, A. Shmeleva processed the materials of the cruises of the RV “Akademik A. Kovalevsky”, “Mikhail Lomonosov”, and “Akademik Vernadsky”, as well as the International Indian Ocean Expedition (UNESCO) and many other research cruises. It was during this time that she became known as a world-class taxonomist. She has described 43 copepod species, new to science, from the Indian Ocean, Antarctic, Atlantic, and Mediterranean Sea; she has clarified the weight characteristics of the Adriatic Sea copepods. Thanks to these studies, the number of known Copepoda species in the Mediterranean alone increased from 200 in 1957 to 425 in 1980. She found more than 30 new Copepoda species off the coast of Turkey, and some of them are supposed to be mass migrants who had entered the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal. More than 150 Mediterranean Copepoda species were discovered away from the Bosphorus area, on shipping routes up to Crimea and the Tsemes Bay; probably, they ended up in the Black Sea with the ballast water of merchant ships.

She is the author and co-author of more than 80 scientific publications, *inter alia* four monographs. The identification guide of fauna of the Iberian Peninsula in two volumes “Crustacea, Copépodos marinos. Calanoida” by Professor Francisco Vives and Alexandra Shmeleva is a successful compendium of a lifetime, dedicated to science and copepods in particular. This fundamental publication is a useful tool for current and future copepodologists.

At the IBSS, she has raised several generations of highly qualified specialists. In her presentation, systematics turned from a routine science into an exciting experience. She was proud of the collection of copepods of the World Ocean, many of which she had no time to describe. She generously shared

knowledge, experience, and unique scientific materials with Spanish, Greek, and Turkish colleagues, as well as specialists from many other countries. With warmth and love, she reminisced the French Professor Grégoire Trégouboff (1886–1969), a well-known specialist in the Mediterranean zooplankton. The identification guide of copepods of the Mediterranean Sea, which he co-authored with Maurice Rose, is still of great relevance. In one of the letters, G. Trégouboff wrote: “. . . I am very grateful to you for your intention to dedicate to me one of the new Copepoda species you have discovered, *Oncaea tregoubovi* Shmeleva, 1968.” As a sign of special gratitude and deep respect to Vladimir Vodyanitsky, the outstanding scientist, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, and director of the Sevastopol Biological Station and IBSS, she named one of cyclopoid copepods discovered by her *Oncaea vodjanitskii* Shmeleva & Delalo, 1965.

A. Shmeleva was a person of great vitality, optimism, and erudition. Her stories of travel, books, and history were as engaging and informative as her conversations about science and Copepoda studies. At one time, she lived in the Sevastopol district Gollandiya. From the windows of her house, she saw the blue expanses of the Sevastopol Bay – a mysterious and always alluring sea, without which she could not live. . . .

We have to remember and honor our teachers, on whose ideas and research today’s science is based. The bright memory of Alexandra Shmeleva will forever remain in our hearts.

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**ПАМЯТИ АЛЕКСАНДРЫ АЛЕКСАНДРОВНЫ ШМЕЛЁВОЙ
(17.05.1926 – 04.01.2021)**

4 января 2021 г. на 95-м году ушла из жизни Александра Александровна Шмелёва — один из наиболее известных специалистов по систематике копепод в мире, к. б. н., старейший научный сотрудник Института биологии южных морей имени А. О. Ковалевского.