

**IN MEMORIAM: YURIY SLYNKO**  
**(09.10.1961 – 14.07.2021)**



On July 14, 2021, a talented, extraordinary, and purposeful ichthyologist Yuriy Vladislavovich Slynko passed away.

He was born into a family of genetic scientists in the village of Novovorontsovka, Kherson region. From the age of 5, after the death of his mother, he was raised in the family of his grandfather: the head of the Ukrainian language department at Chernivtsi State University. In 1983, Yu. Slynko graduated from this university with a degree in biology and entered the PhD graduate school in hydrobiology at the Institute of Biology of Inland Waters of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Borok, Yaroslavl region). After graduating in 1986, he became a researcher in the laboratory of physiology. Since 1989, he worked as a researcher in the laboratory of ichthyology.

In 2000, Yuriy Slynko successfully defended his PhD thesis “The breeding system of intergeneric hybrids of common roach (*Rutilus rutilus* L.), common bream (*Abramis brama* L.), and blue bream (*Abramis ballerus* L.) (Leuciscinae: Cyprinidae)” in ichthyology at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Saint Petersburg). In two years, he founded a faunogenesis group (later on, the laboratory of evolutionary ecology). Since 2017, he worked at the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS (Sevastopol).

Scientific interests of Yu. Slynko embrace issues of hydrobionts speciation and genetic diversity, distant hybridization, and invasion of alien species into aquatic ecosystems. In search of scientific material, he took part in large-scale expeditions along the Amur, Volga, and Dnieper rivers, as well as along the rivers of Ussuriysk region, Altay, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Lithuania. He was the manager and participant of 10 grants of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, 4 programs of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2 grants of the programs of the Biological Sciences Department of the RAS, and the Federal Science and Technology Program. He participated in international projects with Finland and Mongolia, carried out many economic agreements, and organized scientific symposia “Invasions of alien species in the Holarctic”.

Yuriy Slynko left more than 250 scientific publications and 7 collective monographs. He carried out a large-scale assessment of the genetic diversity of Eurasian freshwater ichthyofauna, described a fish species from the genus *Oreoleuciscus* new to science, formulated a hypothesis of rapid allopatric speciation of the Altai osmans and their origin from minnows at the turn of the Pliocene and Pleistocene,

expanded the understanding of evolution mechanisms of endemic species, and determined scale, rate, and direction of fish biological invasions into the largest rivers of the Ponto-Caspian basin. The study of intergeneric hybrids of cyprinids resulted in formulating by him and V. Yakovlev the patterns of inheritance of morphological and genetic features and identifying a new, previously unknown reproductive system in vertebrates: bisexual apomixis. In addition to solving fundamental problems, he was engaged in environmental activities: participated in the work of the commission of the Natural Resources and Ecology Department of Sevastopol on monitoring the state of populations of rare and endangered species of plants and animals.

Under the supervision of Yu. Slynko, four PhD theses were successfully defended. He himself managed to complete the D. Sc. dissertation “Evolutionary and ecological adaptation of alien species of aquatic organisms” and to pass its pre-defense on 10 June, 2021.

The life of Yuriy Slynko was cut short at the peak of his creative achievements: in the autumn of 2021, he would have turned 60. Family, friends, and colleagues will not be able to fill the sudden emptiness in their hearts, but their glorious memory of this bright personality will be the guarantee of the eternal life of Yu. Slynko.

*Students, colleagues, and friends*

**ПАМЯТИ ЮРИЯ ВЛАДИСЛАВОВИЧА СЛЫНЬКО  
(09.10.1961 – 14.07.2021)**

14 июля 2021 г. ушёл из жизни талантливый, неординарный, целеустремлённый учёный-ихтиолог Юрий Владиславович Слынько. Ю. В. Слынько — автор более чем 250 научных публикаций и 7 коллективных монографий.