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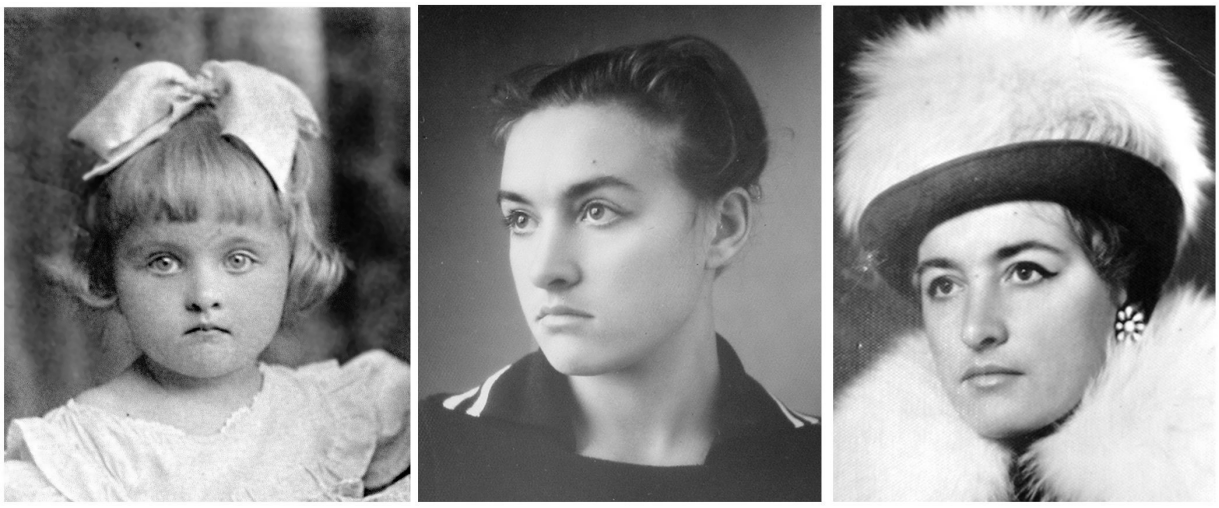
*CHRONICLE AND INFORMATION*

## ON THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS PARASITOLOGIST – PROFESSOR ALBINA GAEVSKAYA

Albina Gaevskaya (maiden name Yatsevich) was born on 21 August, 1937, in Sevastopol. She was a very beautiful child; perhaps, this was facilitated by the mixing of blood of representatives of different nations – Poles, Lithuanians, Italians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, Kazakhs, and Russians. As a child, Albina often fought with boys and gained her small victories. She always considered it necessary to defend her point of view, and back then, it was the most understandable way for her.

Since her childhood, Albina was fond of geography, dreamed of traveling, bought all available books of the "Travelling. Adventures. Fantasy" series, went sailing (in her home archive, there are certificates of honor for prizes in competitions of various levels – from local to All-Union ones), and dreamed of becoming a sea captain. In those years, girls were not admitted to nautical schools, and she entered the geography faculty of the Crimean Pedagogical Institute in Simferopol. Almost every Saturday after lectures, and sometimes instead of them, Albina rushed to Sevastopol to spend Sunday at the yacht club. Sailing is a fascinating and romantic, but unsafe activity. Once, while sailing on the "Druzhba" yacht, a guy did not pick the mainsail sheets at the turn; when transferring the boom to the other side, those sheets flew up and spun around Albina's neck. Pearl beads which wrapped her neck in three rows took the whole blow of the involuntary "noose". Pearls scattered, and a scar remained on the skin for a long time.



Albina Gaevskaya at the age of 3, 21, and 30

When Albina was in her third year, the geography faculty of her institute was transformed into the natural geography faculty – with the study of biological disciplines added. Fate decreed that Albina who initially had no inclination towards biology did not work a day as a geographer. After university, she worked as a biology teacher in one of Donetsk schools for a year; there, she got married and took her husband's last name – Dolgikh. In 1962, she got into the parasitology sector of the Sevastopol Biological Station as an intern and worked for free. Albina started her scientific career like a good soldier who plans to become a general. For Valentina Nikolaeva who headed the parasitology sector, she translated scientific material from English, made drawings for articles, catalogued publications for index cards, and carried out sample preparation. At the same time, she read parasitological literature. Already having a two-month-old son, she entered the PhD graduate school. Her supervisor was a well-known specialist in helminths, head of the zoology department of the Crimean Pedagogical Institute, professor Semen Delyamure. She presented her PhD thesis "Trematoda Larvae: Parasites of Molluscs of the Black Sea Crimean Coast" (1965) even before graduating, being assigned to the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas.

A few years later, being divorced, Albina met her second love in Jūrmala, got married, and took her husband's last name. Under the last name Gaevskaya, she lives to this day. She decided to stay in the Baltics and worked in the Atlantic branch of the All-Union Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (Kaliningrad) since 1971. There, she organized the parasitology department. In 1986, after the death of her husband and defense of her D. Sc. dissertation "Parasites of Fish of the Northeastern Atlantic: Fauna, Ecology, and Peculiarities of Formation" (1985), she was invited to IBSS by Alla Morozova, its director. Here, professor Gaevskaya organized the ecological parasitology department and headed it for 25 years.

Her personal life is vividly reflected in her wonderful offspring: she has 3 sons, 7 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Dreams of travelling came true in expeditions along the Black Sea coast of Crimea, Caucasus, and Odessa estuaries. Participation in scientific conferences and symposiums allowed visiting many European regions of the USSR (from Murmansk to Tbilisi) and foreign countries (Germany, then Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Poland, Hungary, and the UK).

Over the decades of fruitful scientific activity, she has published more than 380 papers, *inter alia* 30 monographs and 5 patents. "Parasitology and Pathology of Fishes: Encyclopedic Glossary–Reference Book" (2003, 2004, and 2006), two-volume "Parasites and Diseases of Fishes in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov" (2012 and 2013), and three-volume "World of Human Parasites" (2015, 2016, and 2017) are unique: there are no similar ones in Russia.

The scientific range of marine parasitology issues studied by A. Gaevskaya is very wide. She contributed much to taxonomy of parasites of marine fish and invertebrates (14 genera and 1 subfamily are described, as well as more than 100 parasite species new to science – trematodes, monogeneans, myxosporeans, and crustaceans). Resulting from her research, the data were expanded on ranges of hundreds of parasite species of various systematic groups, their parasite–host complexes, and peculiarities of parasitic system formation and functioning taking into account biogeographic history of water bodies and effect of environmental factors, as well as systematic position, biology, and ecology of hosts representing various areas of the World Ocean.

She was the first to carry out a complete inventory of the parasite fauna of fish in the northeastern Atlantic – with the compilation of lists of parasites of all taxa indicating their hosts and areas of discovery; those are 1,035 species of 423 genera of 153 families. The role of different fish classes

was revealed in the origin and formation of several large taxa of parasites in this area; the role of squids in the ocean trophic–parasitic system was shown. As established, parasitism formation of the overwhelming majority of groups of marine parasites is associated with bottom fish, primarily those of the shelf, while depth and pelagic colonization is of a secondary nature. For the first time, a method of vertical zonality of ecological groups was proposed for the analysis of fish parasite fauna in marine areas, which makes it possible to combine the issues of the genesis of the fauna and its modern distribution. Albina Gaevskaya's theoretical works contributed much to development of ideas on the role of parasites in the transformation of matter and energy, as well as their stabilizing function in ecosystems.

The results of her research are of great practical significance. She showed that parasites can serve as indicators of various aspects of fish biology, help in identifying stock units of commercial fish, and be markers of anthropogenic load on marine ecosystems. In her publications, much attention is paid to epizootiological significance of parasites of fish and invertebrates. A concept for mariculture development is proposed which substantiates the need for including parasitological work as an integral element of biotechnology for cultivation of marine organisms. A theoretical model was developed of parasitic system formation and functioning under conditions of artificial reefs.

In her honor, colleagues from India, the UK, Russia, and Ukraine named a trematode genus – *Gaevskajatrema* Gibson & Bray, 1982 – and 15 parasite species of different taxonomic groups. This is a recognition of her great contribution to world science.

At the initiative of A. Gaevskaya, "Marine Ecological Journal" was created at IBSS; in 2002–2014, she was its scientific editor. She was the editor-in-chief of the "Marine Biological Journal" (2016), deputy editor-in-chief of the "Sea Ecology" proceedings (1997–2010), and scientific editor of more than 10 collective monographs. For many years, she headed the specialized dissertation council in hydrobiology and was the deputy chairman of IBSS academic council.

Albina Gaevskaya is the Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Crimea, Academician of the Crimean Academy of Sciences, laureate of the Schmalhausen Prize for achievements in zoology, laureate of the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology, and laureate of the City Forum "Public Recognition" (Sevastopol). She was awarded the commemorative medals of Academician K. Skryabin and Academician E. Pavlovsky, the Vernadsky Medal, and other medals, diplomas, and letters of thanks from the State Duma of the Russian Federation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Council of Ministers of Crimea, the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Crimean Academy of Sciences, the Sevastopol City Administration, the Governor of Sevastopol, the Leninsky District Administration of Sevastopol, and the Sevastopol Regional Branch of the Union of Women of Russia.

Under A. Gaevskaya's supervision, 13 PhD theses were successfully defended. Her students work in Sevastopol, Kaliningrad, Moscow, Murmansk, Odessa, Dnipro, and Bila Tserkva. To date, Albina Gaevskaya is actively involved in Sevastopol public life being a member of the social movement "For Our Hero City Sevastopol" council.

On behalf of all students, colleagues, and friends, we congratulate our dear hero of the day on a wonderful date and wish her many years of life in joy and happiness with good health!

*Leading researcher of IBSS ecological parasitology department, PhD*
*V. M. Yurakhno*

# К 85-ЛЕТИЮ ПАРАЗИТОЛОГА С МИРОВЫМ ИМЕНЕМ — ПРОФЕССОРА АЛЬБИНЫ ВИТОЛЬДОВНЫ ГАЕВСКОЙ

21 августа 2022 г. свой юбилей отметила известный паразитолог — профессор Альбина Витольдовна Гаевская. Она описала 1 подсемейство, 14 родов и свыше 100 новых видов морских паразитов, стала автором более чем 380 научных работ, в том числе 30 монографий и 5 патентов. Под руководством А. В. Гаевской защищено 13 кандидатских диссертаций.