

IN MEMORIAM: YURI MORDVINOV (17.06.1937 – 18.09.2022)



On 18 September, 2022, D. Sc. Yuri Mordvinov passed away at the age of 86. He worked at the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas for many years.

Yu. Mordvinov was born in Baku in 1937. All his life and scientific activity were connected with the sea. After finishing school in 1952, he entered the Azerbaijan Fishery College. Having received a diploma in ichthyology and fish farming, he was assigned to the Baltgosrybtrest Expeditionary Fishing Department (Kaliningrad). In 1959–1964, he studied at the Kaliningrad Technical Institute for the Fishery Industry. In 1965, Yuri Mordvinov entered the PhD graduate school at IBSS (Sevastopol) specializing in ichthyology (fish functional morphology). After graduating, he began his scientific career in the nekton department. In 1969, he defended his PhD thesis “Functional Foundations of the External Structure of Pinnipeds.” Since 1977, he worked as a senior researcher in the nekton department. On the initiative of its

head, D. Sc. Yuri Aleyev, the nekton department was transformed in 1980 into the theory of life forms department. Later, it was headed by Yu. Mordvinov. Since 1993, he headed the ecomorphology structural laboratory. In 1996, together with his colleagues, he moved to the shelf ecosystems department and worked there for about seven years. In 1994, he defended his D. Sc. dissertation “Functional Morphology of Aquatic Birds and Semi-aquatic Mammals.”

In his scientific activity, three main directions can be distinguished – functional morphology, biohydrodynamics, and ecomorphology. Those are related to the analysis of the system of morphological adaptations of animals representing various taxonomic ranks. Yuri Mordvinov studied the main patterns of formation and development of nekton adaptations in secondary aquatic vertebrates – reptiles, birds, and mammals. Diverse experiments were aimed at determining parameters of the total hydrodynamic resistance and were carried out in a large biohydrodynamic channel at IBSS both with living objects and model ones. The scope of his scientific interests also covered research of ecological and morphological features of birds of varying degrees of specialization for inhabiting aquatic environment considering their swimming, flight, and terrestrial locomotion. Obtained results contributed much to the solution of several fundamental problems of ecology and evolution.

Over the years of his scientific activity, Yu. Mordvinov both carried out experimental work and conducted field studies. He took part in expeditions to the Far East, Dalniye Zelyentsy, Commander Islands, Bermuda, and Antarctic, as well as to the Voronezh and Gasan-Kuli (now Hazar) reserves.

The results of his research are reflected in 70 scientific publications and summarized in the monograph “Functional Morphology of Swimming Birds and Semi-aquatic Mammals” (1984). Yury Mordvinov was the speaker at numerous conferences and symposiums, participated in the integrated interdepartmental program of research of the USSR Ministry of the Fisheries on marine mammals, and for many years was a member of IBSS specialized scientific council. Moreover, he supervised diploma projects in biology sharing his knowledge and experience with students from various universities, was the chairman of the State Examination Board at the faculty of natural sciences at the Simferopol State University, and advised younger colleagues at IBSS.

Both in science and life, Yuri Mordvinov was an active, principled, straightforward, and at the same time benevolent person. The bright memory of a talented scientist and a reliable friend will forever remain in our hearts.



Colleagues

ПАМЯТИ ЮРИЯ ЕГОРОВИЧА МОРДВИНОВА (17.06.1937 – 18.09.2022)

18 сентября 2022 г. ушёл из жизни д. б. н. Юрий Егорович Мордвинов. Он изучал основные закономерности становления и развития нектонных адаптаций у вторичноводных позвоночных из классов рептилий, птиц и млекопитающих и опубликовал 70 научных работ.