

CHRONICLE AND INFORMATION

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF D. SC., PROF. IGOR DOVGAL



On 29 October, 2024, D. Sc., Prof. Igor Dovgal celebrated his 70th birthday. He is a renowned protistologist heading the laboratory of population biology of hydrobionts at the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

I. Dovgal was born on the Sakhalin Island into a military family. In 1959, he moved to Kyiv with his parents. In 1980, he graduated from the faculty of biology of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University specializing in zoology and botany. While still a student, he began studying parasitic ciliates in the laboratory of invertebrates at the I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and successfully defended his coursework and diploma thesis. He joined the Institute of Zoology in 1979 and worked there until 2014.

A young protistologist was interested in poorly studied groups of infusoria: suctorians and chonotrichs. In 1981–1982, he completed a one-year internship at the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union in Leningrad under the guidance of D. Sc. A. Yankovsky, a well-known specialist on infusoria.

In 1989, Igor Dovgal defended his PhD thesis in Kyiv, “Tentaculate Infusoria (Ciliophora, Suctoria) of the Ukrainian Polesia.” In 2003, he defended his D. Sc. dissertation in Saint Petersburg, “Evolution, Phylogeny, and Systematics of Tentaculate Infusoria (Ciliophora, Suctorea).”

Within 1987–1992, he was involved in studying the ecological consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

In 2005, the Higher Attestation Commission of Ukraine awarded I. Dovgal the scientific title of senior researcher. In 2010, by decree of the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, he was awarded the title of Professor.

Over the years of his professional activity, Igor Dovgal contributed much to the development of protistology as a systematist. As a result of his systematic and nomenclatural revisions, he substantiated the identification of 1 order, 1 suborder, and 4 families of infusoria and described 6 new genera and 23 new species.

He developed an original concept of the hydrodynamic boundary water layer as an adaptive zone for sessile protozoans, a von Baer’s law for unicellular eukaryotes (“the principle of tomite similarity”), and a hypothetical evolutionary scenario for the formation of morphogenetic mechanisms

during the transition of unicellular eukaryotes to multicellularity. Together with co-authors, he proposed a scale-dependent model for distribution of marine planktonic infusoria. In collaboration with researchers from Switzerland and China, he developed a phylogenetic scheme for ciliates of the subclass Chonotrichia. This scheme is based on comparative morphology, ontogeny, and molecular genetics.

I. Dovgal has published over 250 scientific works, including 4 monographs, 138 articles (55 in Web of Science indexed journals and 20 in Scopus indexed ones), 1 popular science book, and 4 biology textbooks. He became the editor-in-chief of the Red Data Book of Sevastopol. Moreover, he is a co-author of two invention patents in Ukraine.

In 2004–2014, Igor Dovgal headed the department of fauna and invertebrate systematics, and in 2007–2014, he was the deputy director for scientific affairs at the I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In 2003–2013, he taught at Zhytomyr State University.

Since 2016, I. Dovgal is a chief researcher at IBSS, member of the Institute's dissertation council, and deputy chairman of the scientific council.

He serves on editorial boards of five scientific journals: Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, Ecologica Montenegrina, Ecosystems, Marine Biological Journal, and Protistology. Also, he is a member of the topical advisory panel of the scientific journal Diversity. Igor Dovgal joined the International Society of Protistologists (ISOP) in 2006, served as its Vice President in 2007–2008, and became its Emeritus Member in 2022. Since 2021, he is a member of the Russian Hydrobiological Society.

For many years, I. Dovgal carried out joint research with foreign colleagues, participated in international scientific meetings at institutions in Germany, Denmark, Turkey, Montenegro, Italy, and Mexico, and lectured at Shandong University (SDU) and National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM). His co-authors represent 30 countries. Igor Dovgal actively participates in expeditionary research, conferences, congresses, and symposia.

He lectures “Systematics and Morphology of Hydrobionts” and “Population Biology of Hydrobionts” for master students of the department of hydrobiology and general ecology at the Sevastopol State University. He has supervised ten PhDs and one D. Sc.

For his significant contribution to science and outstanding achievements, I. Dovgal has been awarded the I. I. Schmalhausen Prize of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He received a letter of gratitude from the Governor of Sevastopol, a letter of gratitude from the Department of Natural Resources and Ecology of Sevastopol, and a certificate of honor from the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Friends and IBSS colleagues warmly congratulate Igor Dovgal on his anniversary and wish him good health and fruitful work for the benefit of national and global science.

Dear Igor Vasilyevich, in you, our institute has gained a highly skilled specialist, a talented teacher, a kind-hearted colleague, and an honest and decent person, and we all have found a true friend!

К ЮБИЛЕЮ ДОКТОРА БИОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ НАУК, ПРОФЕССОРА ИГОРЯ ВАСИЛЬЕВИЧА ДОВГАЛЯ

29 октября 2024 г. своё 70-летие отметил д. б. н., проф. Игорь Васильевич Довгаль, заведующий лабораторией популяционной биологии гидробионтов ФИЦ ИнБЮМ. Известный протистолог И. В. Довгаль — автор и соавтор более чем 250 научных работ и один из ответственных редакторов Красной книги города Севастополя. Также Игорь Васильевич входит в состав редколлегии пяти научных журналов.