

Personalia



Yuri Popov — as we remember him

Dr. Yuri Popov, born 5 March 1936, passed away 16 November 2016. Upon graduation from the Entomology Department of Moscow State University, he joined the Arthropoda Lab of the Paleontological Institute, where he studied fossil and living true bugs and their kin and became a major expert in that area. He was a man of many talents and had lots of friends all over the world. The few flashbacks collected here are but a small tribute to his memory.

Randall T. Schuh

Yuri and I crossed paths two times. First, in my office at the American Museum of Natural History, sometime in the 1990s. We had a conversation about bugs and got acquainted. When he left, I felt like I had a new friend. The other time was at the second meeting of the International Heteropterists' Society in St. Petersburg in July 2002. Yuri was among the several Russian heteropterists who attended, and it was a pleasure to see him once again. His optimism and enthusiasm in his interpersonal interactions, as well as for the study of true bugs, were evident on both occasions.

Yuri was, doubtless, the driving force in the modern study of Heteroptera fossils, and particularly his work on the *Nepomorpha* is a landmark publication in the study of the group and in insect paleontology and classification. He saw the real value in integrating data from the

Recent fauna in his work on fossils, an effort that was informed by his early and continuing interest in the study of the living Heteroptera. His published works will serve as a lasting reminder of the energy he put into fieldwork and the detailed study of the specimens derived from it.

May he rest in peace.

Robin Wootton

Although we have seldom met in the last five decades, I have always considered Yuri Alexandrovich to be one of my greatest friends. I came to work at PIN in 1963, on one of the first exchange fellowships between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society. The PIN staff were very welcoming, though Elena Ernestovna Bekker-Migdisova and Alexander Grigorievich Sharov both tended to lecture me about the wickedness of the West. Yuri, Alik Rasnitsyn, Sasha Ponomarenko, Iren Sukatsheva and Lyusi Pritykina were all about my age, and we had much to talk about, as you can imagine, preferably where nobody else could hear. It was all a great experience, at a very interesting time. The USSR had only recently begun to acknowledge that there was good science happening outside the Soviet block, and all the young scientists were learning English.

Boris Borisovich Rohdendorf allocated Yuri to look after me and to act as liaison between myself and the authorities. He could not have made a better choice. We

