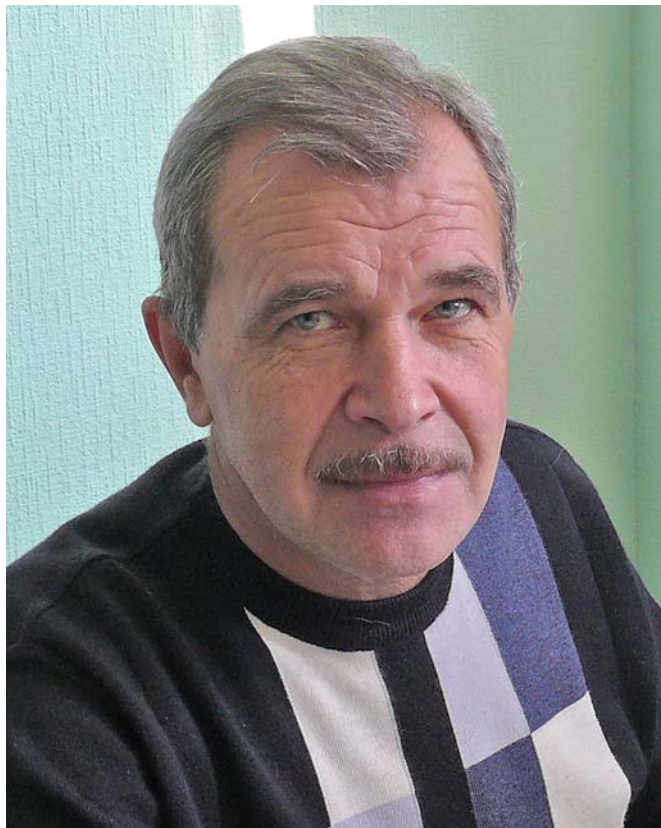


Obituary



Alexander Vasilievich Puchkov (5.09.1954–30.04.2021)

On April 30, 2021 the famous Soviet and Ukrainian entomologist, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Alexander Vasilievich Puchkov died. His death was a heavy loss for the entomological community of Europe, for all his colleagues and friends.

Alexander Vasilievich was a full member of the Ukrainian, Russian, Austrian and Czech Entomological Societies; since 2007 he was the First Vice President of the Ukrainian Entomological Society. He had a great job as a chief-editor of the “Ukrainian Entomological Journal”, as a scientific editor of the “Vestnik Zoologii”, as well as a member of the editorial boards of the “Entomological Review”, “News of the Kharkov Entomological Society” and “Biology and Valeology”. In addition, Alexander Vasilievich was a member of the scientific councils of the I.I. Shmalhausen Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Institute of Plant Protection of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine.

Alexander Vasilievich was born on the 5th September 1954 in Kiev in the family of the famous Soviet and Ukrainian entomologists Vasily Georgievich Puchkov

and Lydia Vasilievna Puchkova, who were one of the leading experts of the former USSR in taxonomy, morphology and evolution of Heteroptera.

After graduating ordinary school in 1974, Alexander Vasilievich entered the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy which he graduated in 1977 with a degree in zoology and entomology. For the next five years he worked as a senior laboratory assistant and agronomist at the Institute of Plant Protection. In 1982 he entered the graduate school in the Institute of Zoology of Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, which later became his place of work. In 1985, Alexander Vasilievich defended Ph.D. thesis “Coleoptera of the wheat field of the steppe zone of Ukraine.” Since 1985 to 2016 he worked his way up from a junior researcher of the entomology department to the head of the laboratory of scientific fund entomological collections of the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. From July to November 1986 he took part in the liquidation of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In 2004, Aleksander Vasilievich successfully defended doctoral dissertation “Lar-

vae of tiger beetles (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae) of the World fauna and a general overview of subtribe Cicindelina of the Palaearctic.” In 2018, he received the title of professor in biological sciences, and in 2020 he became a laureate prize of the I.I. Schmalhausen of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Alexander Vasilievich was a member of more than 60 scientific expeditions in various regions of the former USSR, from Western Ukraine to the Far East, from Karelia to Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. His research interests covered the faunistic, taxonomy, morphology, and ecology of ground and tiger beetles (Coleoptera, Caraboidea) of the Palaearctic. He is the author over 200 scientific publications, including six monographs; he described about 20 new taxa (species and subspecies) of Carabidae and Cicindelidae. However, the main object of his studies over the past 30 years has been the larvae of tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) of the

world fauna. During this time, he described the larvae of more than 50 species of all tribes from all the continents. It is no exaggeration to say that Alexander Vasilievich was the only specialist in the world on the larvae of Cicindelidae and his death is a truly irreplaceable loss.

Over the last five years, Alexander Vasilyevich has closely cooperated with the Kharkov State Pedagogical University named after Grigory Skovoroda as a visiting lecturer and scientific supervisor at the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. During this period three post-graduate students defended their Ph.D. theses under his supervision.

The warm memories of Alexander Vasilievich, and at the same time, deep sorrow about his untimely death, will forever remain in the hearts of all his friends and colleagues.

Editorial board of Russian Entomological Journal