Lev Nikolaevitch Seravin (1931–2010)

Russian protistology has suffered a tragic and irreplaceable loss. On 19th June 2010 in St. Petersburg after a long illness died at 79 years old Lev Nikolaevitch Seravin. A very well know scientists not only among the protistologists but among the zoologists all over the world.

Lev Nikolaevitch was born on 23 September 1931 in Vologodskaya oblast in a peasant family. In 1948 having graduated from school in Archangelsk he entered Leningrad State University a place tightly linked with his future scientific and pedagogical activities. During his studies at the Department of invertebrate zoology (1948-1953) Seravin became one of the closest students of Professor V.A. Dogiel which, as it seems, has established the main sphere of his scientific interests. Starting from his diploma Lev Nikolaevitch studied different aspects of systematic, biology and physiology of protozoa – especially ciliated protists and amoebas. Already in 1957 L.N. Seravin became a chief of Dogiel’s lab of invertebrate zoology of the Biological Research Institute of the University. The scientist has devoted about 50 years of his life to this university unit. There he became a candidate (1959) and a doctor (1968) of science, then a professor (1971) and an honored science worker of the Russian Federation (1999). Although the main part of Seravin’s works (over 250 scientific articles and 5 monographs) were devoted to the protozoa he also successfully worked in the field of the lower invertebrates. There are more than 20 candidates and several doctors of science among Lev Nikolaevitch’s students.

As a university professor and a leader of a big group of zoologists in the Biological Institute L.N. Seravin will be remembered by the students and the staff members as a person entirely devoted to the science, a person of wide biological views and a gift for teaching, as a tactful chief and a wise comrade. His works which contain many brave hypothesis and bright discoveries are still very relevant for the scientific society. It is even more important that Lev Nikolaevitch managed to bring up several generations of zoologists and protistologists who will keep lots of grateful memories about their teacher for many years to come.

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