

**Boris Konstantinov Russev
(1929 - 2002)**

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Boris Konstantinov Russev died on 26 November 2002 after a prolonged illness at the age of 73. He was an honored colleague, notable zoologist and hydrobiologist, an exceptional person.

Boris Russev was born in Sofia on 23 April 1929. He studied biology at Sofia University and graduated in 1952. During the period 1952-1953 he worked as an assistant in the Marine Biological Station of Sofia University, located in Varna. After 1954 when this station became part of the Institute of Fishery and Fish Industry he became research fellow and since 1963 – a senior research fellow. Since 1964 he worked as a senior research fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Sofia. In 1979 he obtained his Doctor's degree on the topic "State and significance of the zoobenthos of Danube River". In 1982 he was elected and worked till his retirement in 1994 as a professor.

The scientific activity of Boris Russev can be summarized mainly in three directions:

- Danube River: He investigated the composition, quantitative distribution, ecology and significance of the zoobenthos in Bulgarian and Austrian Danube stretch (own studies) and throughout the Danube (on literature).

As a result B. Russev made number of original contributions to the science: he described 5 new subdivisions of the lythorheophilic biocoenoses; he gave original explanations about the influence of Coriolis' force on the zoobenthos distribution in Danube as well as additional data about adaptive and compulsory migrations of invertebrates up stream; for the first time he described the "compensatory flight" for the mayfly *Palingenia longicauda* (Oliv.); he gave some new criteria for the pollution assessment of big rivers, which he used in determination of the pollution and self-purification of rivers like Danube River.

- Saprobiology and ecology of Bulgarian Rivers: He placed the beginning of ecological and saprobiological research of Bulgaria and created the Bulgarian saprobiology school; alone and in team he offered original criteria for determination of impact and background river pollution, a lot of theoretic principles and approaches for the aim of hydrobiological monitoring. By means of comparative critical analyses he worked out the biological methods for estimation of running waters quality. As a result of the studies the composition and the state of the river biocoenoses was researched, along with the trends in pollution and self-purification of more than 20 most significant Bulgarian rivers and their river valleys.

- Biological diversity of running and standing waters: B. Russev had reported 122 invertebrate

species new for Bulgarian-, 35 species new for the Austrian- and 8 species new for the Greek fauna. He had summarized 1106 taxa for Danube River, 305 of them for Bulgarian section of the river and 1337 taxa for the Danube tributaries in Bulgaria.

His scientific achievements were published in 140 articles. He is a coauthor of 2 monographies on Danube River, one – on the Bulgarian Danube tributaries and of a bio-bibliography of his teacher Prof. Alexander Valkanov as well.

He is the author of the book “Live in our rivers” and the author of near 50 popular articles. His works were quoted over 456 times, 289 of them in issues in 17 countries in Europe and USA.

For many years B. Russev was a Bulgarian representative in International Society of Limnologists (SIL), as well as in International Association for Danube research (IAD) as a leader of “Zoobenthos” group. In the period 1968-1972 he was scientific consultant about the zoobenthos and running waters in the “International Biological Program” to UNESCO.

Boris Russev had active teaching practice. He read lectures on Saprobiology, Biological basis of self-purification and Integrate course on ecology at the Biological faculty of Sofia University. He had published 2 textbooks – “Fundamentals of saprobiology” and “Hydrobiology, Microbiology, Saprobiology” (as coauthor). Through all his live he was teacher of many young biologists, which are now strengthened potamologists and saprobiologists and are called with honor his students.

Despite the health problems, concomitant him since early age, Boris Russev never stopped to work hard and to undertake some expeditions and many field trips. He succeeded to carry away his colleagues with the enthusiasm even after his retirement. Devoted to the hydrobiological science, he was fond of the mayflies. Every time he worked on Ephemeroptera he did it with special satisfaction.

The nobility, honesty and friendship of Boris Russev will remain forever in our memory.

List of the taxa dedicated to Boris Russev

Ephemeroptera

Ecdyonurus russevi Braasch & Soldán, 1985

Plecoptera

Chloroperla russevi Braasch, 1969

Isoperla russevi Sowa, 1970

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