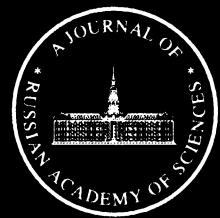


Volume 36, Number 3  
May–June 2005

ISSN: 1067-4136  
CODEN: RJOEEW



# RUSSIAN JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY

English Translation of *Ekologiya*

Editor-in-Chief  
Vladimir N. Bolshakov

<http://www.malk.ru>

A Journal of Original Papers and Reviews on Theoretical and Applied Ecology



МАИК "НАУКА/INTERPERIODICA"

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## OBITUARIES

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### **Dmitrii Aleksandrovich Krivolutskii (October 4, 1939–October 30, 2004)**



The last article of D.A. Krivolutskii, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, is published in this issue. Krivolutskii had been a member of the Editorial Board of *Ecology* since 1970, when Academician S.S. Shvarts founded the journal.

Dmitrii Aleksandrovich Krivolutskii, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Parasitology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Head of the Department of Biogeography in the Faculty of Geography at Moscow State University, and Head of the Laboratory of Bioindication at the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences passed away at the peak of his powers (following the sudden onset of an unforeseen disease). Shortly before his death, in late July, Krivolutskii returned from a Mongolian expedition with vast amounts of materials and numerous ideas and plans. These materials were expected to help Krivolutskii complete a study on the phoresia of oribatid mites in bird feathers and give new impetus to research in the ecology and biogeography of oribatid mites. Krivolutskii's life in science was rich and exciting; what he accomplished alone would be enough for a large research team.

Krivolutskii was born into a family of researchers. His parents were geographers who worked at Moscow State University. At the age of just eight, Krivolutskii

began the life of the researcher on the Caucasian Geological Expedition of Moscow State University, on which his parents and many other outstanding geologists and geographers worked in that period: geography was thus predetermined to become his second main field of interest (after biology). In 1957, Krivolutskii entered the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science of Moscow State University, where he majored in invertebrate zoology at the department headed by Academician L.A. Zinkevich. Years of training in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, where marine fauna was a traditional field of interest, left a lasting imprint on Krivolutskii. Even before Krivolutskii graduated, however, he began his studies on oribatid mites, the terrestrial arthropods that remained the main object of Krivolutskii's research throughout his life; in this field, Krivolutskii made a number of discoveries that are now considered classical. Krivolutskii graduated from Moscow State University in 1962 and joined the Institute of Evolutionary Morphology and Ecology of Animals of the USSR Academy of Sciences (now, Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences), where he would continue to work for the rest of his life. First, Krivolutskii worked as a senior laboratory assistant at the Laboratory of Soil Zoology headed by Academician M.S. Gilyarov. In 1964, Krivolutskii defended his candidate dissertation and started a long-term work on an index of soil mites. In 1980, the index in three volumes edited by Gilyarov and Krivolutskii won them the State Prize of the Soviet Union. In addition to zoological and taxonomic studies, Krivolutskii was very interested in ecological problems, such as "life forms" of animals, winter ecology of soil animals, and methods for analyzing their diversity. Krivolutskii was among the founders of soil radiation ecology and worked in the Eastern Ural radioactive trail, Chernobyl, and Semipalatinsk, where he used soil mites as a model to demonstrate the effects of radioactive contamination. Krivolutskii created the Laboratory of Bioindication and headed it from 1981 until the end of his life. In 1997, Krivolutskii and his colleagues were awarded the Prize of the Government of the Russian Federation for research in bioindication and radioecology.

In 1988, Krivolutskii became Head of the Department of Biogeography of Moscow State University; his work at this position for 16 years proved Krivolutskii to be an excellent organizer and a brilliant lecturer. About 40 researchers defended their candidate dissertations and 10 became doctors of sciences under Krivolutskii's

supervision. Krivolutskii made great contributions to biogeography: he actually created the biogeography of soil microarthropods and explained certain patterns of their distribution over the globe. The paleontology and paleogeography of oribatid mites were among Krivolutskii's favorite areas, in which he achieved much and was planning even more. Krivolutskii's various interests are reflected in his more than 500 published research works and 17 monographs, as well as numerous collections of articles for which he acted as executive editor.

Krivolutskii was also noted for his social activity: he was Secretary General of the X Colloquium on Soil Ecology (Moscow, 1985), a member of the International Society of Radioecologists and International Society for Bioethics, as well as a corresponding member of the Finnish Entomological Society. For an extended period, Krivolutskii was a member of the Permanent Committee on Soil Zoology of the International

Society of Soil Science; the Committee for Bioindicators of the International Society of Life Sciences; the editorial boards of the journals *Ekologiya* (Ecology), *Vestnik Moskovskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta, Ser. Geografiya* (Herald of Moscow State University, Ser. Geography), *Applied Soil Ecology*, *Archives of Nature Conservation and Landscape Research*, and *Ekologija* (Vilnius); and National Committee of Soviet (later, Russian) Biologists.

Notwithstanding all his high positions and awards, Krivolutskii always remained a very kindhearted and friendly person and a good colleague. All those who ever knew or met Krivolutskii will always cherish his memory.

**V.N. Bol'shakov, P.L. Gorchakovskii,  
V.N. Pozolotina (members of Editorial Boards),  
A.D. Pokarzhevskii, A.S. Zaitsev, and K.B. Gongal'skii  
(D.A. Krivolutskii's colleagues)**