



PAVEL ABRAMOVICH CHIROV
1938–2006

Pavel Abramovich Chirov, the prominent Russian parasitologist, member of the International Academy of Ecology and Life Protection Sciences, Russian Entomological and Parasitological Societies, died December 30, 2006 in a tragic accident.

P.A. Chirov was born in Kazalinsk (Kazakhstan), on March 4, 1938, in a family originating from Russian kazak settlers. After graduation from the Zoology and veterinary technical school in Kazalinsk in 1956, he worked as a veterinarian in the Taldy-Kurgan Province in Kazakhstan for one and a half years.

In 1958, he moved to Frunze (now Bishkek, Kirghizia), where he began to work as a senior technician in the Laboratory of Arachnology of the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of the Kirgizian Academy of Science (now Institute of Biology). In this period, P.A. Chirov started his first scientific investigation on horse flies (Tabanidae) of Kirgizia. From 1959 to 1965, in addition to doing technician work the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology, he was a student of the K.I. Skryabin Kirgizian Agricultural Institute and specialized in zootechny. During this period he accumulated a large collection of horse flies of Kirgizia and published three scientific papers. After graduating in 1965, P.A. Chirov began a postgraduate education with a specialization in «parasitology». He successfully defended his thesis for the Candidate of

Science degree entitled «Horse flies (Diptera, Tabanidae) of Kirgizia» in 1968. Since that time his scientific interests have turned mainly to epizootological aspects of parasitic arthropods; he began to study relationships of blood sucking invertebrates (horse flies, fleas and ixodid ticks) with microorganisms causing leptospirosis, listeriosis, and salmonellosis.

In 1986, P.A. Chirov became a deputy head of the Laboratory of Parasitology. His personal and administrative activities substantially improved on the scientific achievements of the laboratory: field trips were made to different regions of Kirgizia for extensive investigation of parasitic arthropods associated with terrestrial vertebrates; monitoring of important blood sucking parasites started in several field stations; and a number of young scientists entered the staff of the laboratory. He created a team of researchers specializing in various groups of parasitic arthropods: ixodid ticks, chiggers, gamasid mites, acariform mites, and lice. He worked in many fields of parasitology and on different groups of parasitic arthropods, but as a systematist he had some favorite groups of acariform mites on which he worked with great enthusiasm (Cheyletidae, Syringophilidae, and feather mites).

P.A. Chirov defended his thesis of Doctor of Sciences degree entitled «Parasitic arthropods and vertebrates as possible hosts of salmonellas and

listerias» at the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences (Leningrad, now Saint Petersburg) in 1987. One year later, he got a position as the head of the Laboratory of Parasitology of the Institute of Biology and Parasitology (Frunze), and since 1989 he was simultaneously a deputy director of that institute. Besides his direct scientific work, he performed a lot of organizing work in the scientific community as the secretary of the «Problem council on ecological parasitology and natural foci diseases», as a member of the administration in the Kirgizian branch of the All-Union Entomological Society, and as the co-editor of the periodical «Entomological investigations in Kirgizia».

In 1991, when P.A. Chirov visited the Institute of Zoology and Veterinary Science in Saratov as a member of the Council for Scientific degrees, he received an offer to take a professor position at the Microbiology department of this institute. He took this position and soon began to combine it with the position of the pro-rector for science. He worked quite actively, giving lectures on parasitology, microbiology, and virology. In December 1995, P.A. Chirov became the head of the Department of Plant Physiology and Microbiology at Saratov State University and managed it for 10 years, moving to a professor position. During the work at this department, he created several general and specialized classes on microbiology, virology, parasitology, ecology and systematics of bacteria. He paid a lot of attention to preparing and teaching young scientists. During his work in the university, five-seven M. Sc. theses on various themes were defended under his authority each year. P.A. Chirov combined his position of professor of plant physiology and microbiology with reading lectures at the Department of Parasitology and Entomology at Saratov Agrarian State University and at the Department for skill-rising in the Saratov State University. He organized the periodical named «Entomological and parasitological investigations in Povolzh'ye» (4 volumes, 2001–2005).

One important direction of his scientific activity was exploration of the biodiversity of parasitic arthropods in the Asian republics of the former USSR. P.A. Chirov described over 30 new taxa of mites and insects. Over 100 species of parasitic arthropods were recorded for the Tian-Sian region for the first time. In total P.A. Chirov has published 220 papers, including 7 monographs, 10 manuals and methodic brochures, and one patent of invention.

Pavel Abramovich Chirov loved life, expected to live a minimum of a dozen years more, and had

many ambitious plans. He was a man of great and indomitable energy, a member of a number of scientific councils and societies, the editor of many monographs and collective publications, a continuous participant in the All-Union and Russian scientific congresses and conferences, and the organizer of many field expeditions. It is difficult to understand that he is not anymore with us. We express deep condolences to the family, friends, and disciples of this remarkable MAN and SCIENTIST.

Publications by P.A. Chirov on Acarology (by topics and in chronological order)

Ixodid ticks

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- Chirov, P.A., Bardzimashvili, E.A. and Ozerova, R.A. 2004. [Peculiarities of ecology of ixodid ticks (Ixodidae) on the conservation territory]. In: P.A. Chirov and V.V. Anikin (Eds.). *Entomologicheskie i parazitologicheskie issledovaniya v Povolzh'e, Saratov State University*, 3: 133–139. [In Russian with English summary]

Chigger mites

- Kharadov, A.V. and Chirov, P.A. [Chigger mites (Trombidioidea) of the silver mountain vole from Kirgizia]. *Izvestiya Akademii nauk Kirgizskoi SSR, Seriya khimiko-tekhnologicheskie i biologicheskie nauki*. 1: 64–69. [In Russian]
- Kharadov, A.V. and Chirov, P.A. 2001. [Morphological variability of *Neotrombicula monticola* Schluger et Davydov, 1967 (Acariformes: Trombiculidae)]. *Entomologicheskie i parazitologicheskie issledovaniya v Povolzh'e, Saratov State University*, 1: 70–82. [In Russian]
- Kharadov, A.V. and Chirov P.A.. 2006. Krasnotelkovye kleshchi (Acariformes: Leeuwenhoekiidae, Trombiculidae) Kyrgyzstana [Chigger mites (Acariformes: Leeuwenhoekiidae, Trombiculidae) of Kyrgyzstan]. Publisher: Ilim, Bishkek, 182 pp. [In Russian]
- Chirov, P.A. and Kharadov, A.V. 2006. [Distribution of chigger mites (Acariformes: Leeuwenhoekiidae, Trombiculidae) in different geographical complex-

es of Eastern part of the Tian-Shan mountain system]. *Povolzhski ekologicheski zhurnal*, 1: 77–86. [In Russian]

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Cheyletidae

Chirov, P.A. and Bochkov, A.V. 1998. *Ornithocheyletia mironovi* sp.n. (Acari, Cheyletidae), a new species of parasitic mites of the bank swallow from Kirgizia. *Acarina*, 6: 35–36.

Mironov, S.V., Bochkov, A.V. and Chirov, P.A. 1991. [Mites of the genus *Cheyletopsis* (Acariformes, Cheyletidae) from quills of charadriiform birds in Central Asia]. *Izvestiya Akademii nauk Kirgizskoi SSR, Seriya khimiko-tehnologicheskije i biologicheskie nauki*, 4: 50–56. [In Russian]

Myobiidae

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Syringophilidae

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Feather mites

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Chirov P.A. 1982. [Feather mites of birds of the family Hirundinidae]. *Entomologicheskije issledovaniya v Kirgizii, Frunze*, 15: 117–124. [In Russian]

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Chirov, P.A. and Mironov, S.V. 1990. [Feather mites of the subfamily Ingrassiinae of limicolines and ducks]. *Izvestiya Akademii nauk Kirgizskoi SSR, Seriya khimiko-tehnologicheskije i biologicheskie nauki*, 3: 74–83. [In Russian]

Chirov P.A., Mironov S.V. 1991. [A first record of the mite of the genus *Schoutedencoptes* (Turbinoptidae) in the fauna of the USSR]. *Izvestiya Akademii nauk Kirgizskoi SSR, Seriya khimiko-tehnologicheskije i biologicheskie nauki*, 2: 57–61. [In Russian]

Interrelationships of ixodid ticks, bacteria, and vertebrates

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