



FOREWORD FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF VESTNIK ZOOLOGII

It is with great pleasure that we mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the *Vestnik Zoologii* (VZ) with this issue.

The VZ was founded by the Decree of the Presidium of Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian SSR No 45 of February 19, 1966 “On the expansion of periodicals network” and established since 1967. It was emphasized, among other, on the importance of foundation of new journals for the progress in the scientific knowledge in biology, better organization and coordination of zoological studies, growth of the scientific work practical efficiency and rise of highly qualified professional community.

Before that, the zoological articles from Ukraine were usually published in the *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal* (Moscow) or *Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie* (Leningrad), but they considered mainly the manuscripts covering the whole USSR territory rather than studies of the Ukrainian fauna. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences published its own periodicals, such as “*Zoologichniy Zhurnal Ukrainy*” (1921, 1923), then replaced by the “*Travaux de Musée zoologique*” (“*Works/Transactions of the Zoological Museum*”, «Збірник праць Зоологічного музею» 1926–1941, 1952–1963) and “*Works/Transactions of the Institute of Zoology*” («Праці Інституту зоології», 1959–1964), “*Problems of Zoology*” and “*Problems of Parasitology*,” some in Ukrainian, some in Russian, but non of them was a regularly published journal. Some papers were published also in the *Proceedings of the Academy of Science of Ukrainian SSR (Series Biology)*, but the routine of submission and reviewing was extremely complicated and slow.

Articles dedicated to the strictly Ukrainian zoological studies and surveys thus remained poorly known to the scientists of the scientific community, especially beyond the USSR, and there was a need to disseminate the ideas and discoveries of Ukrainian scientists.

Originally initiated by Ivan Pidoplichko (Editor-in-Chief, 1967–1975), the Director of the Institute of Zoology since 1965, the VZ recruited the most prominent Ukrainian zoologists as members of the Editorial Board, among them parasitologist Oleksandr Markevych, entomologists Oleksandr Kryshchal, Vasyl Puchkov, Eugene Savchenko, ornitologists Oleksandr Kistyakivsky and Mikhailo Voynstvensky, ecologists Ivan Sokur and Pavlo Svyrydenko, and others. Later, the editorial board included also teriologist Vadym Topachevsky (Editor-in-Chief, 1977–1988), acarologist Ihor Akimov (Editor-in-Chief, since 1988), parasitologists Vera Koval, Vadym Korniyushin, Vitaly Kharchenko, entomologists Vera Mamontova, Marina Zerova, Vladimir Dolin, carcinologist Vladilav Monchenko, and other distinguished experts in all the branches of zoological studies.

VZ was designed as a bi-monthly journal entirely dedicated to zoological content and intended for the scientific public of the whole Soviet Union. The latter partly explains the fact that it was published entirely in Russian for the next 30 years, and that the published articles were written by the scientists not only from Ukraine, but also Georgia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Moldova, Vietnam, Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Poland, and many other countries. In 1960–90s most papers published in VZ had English summaries facilitating access to them by the international zoological community and reviewing by the *Zoological Record*. After several decades behind the “iron curtain” even that was an essential breakthrough.

In that period, *VZ* has become the main zoological journal in Ukraine. *VZ* represented each of the major projects and directions of studies conducted at the Institute of Zoology, from the population ecology of pest animals, such as rodents and insects — to the parasitology and helminthology, and from the evolutionary morphology and anatomy to the systematics of vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as various problems of the nature conservation.

Most (if not all) the currently working Ukrainian zoologists published their first significant results of their studies in *VZ*, learning the art of writing with the its scientific editors, Leonid Hireenko, Vladislav Monchenko, Viktor Sharpilo, Yuri Nekrutenko, Valery Korneyev and editorial secretaries, Olha Senchenko, Elizaveta Skomorovska and Halyna Horodyska, who gladly shared their knowledge of zoological nomenclature and skills of languages, good scientific style, logics and design of texts and illustrations.

In the last two decades, *VZ* is a peer-reviewed open-access journal having the highest rating among Ukrainian biological journals and the seventh position among all the academic journals published in Ukraine according to the Scopus list. In last five years it contains papers written by the scientists from Ukraine, United States, Poland, Czech Republic, China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Iran, Turkey, and other countries based on the surveys and collections from all the world, with descriptions of new families, tribes, genera and species, both extant and extinct, vertebrate and invertebrate, results of analysis of distribution and evolution, based on modern GIS, molecular phylogenetic and diagnostic techniques, population genetics and gamma-taxonomy of species inhabiting Ukraine. Its electronic version is published online by the independent academic publisher De Gruyter Publishing House and is reviewed by Thomson Reuters Master List and indexed or abstracted in CAB Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, Zoological Record, Aquatic Sciences Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), Referativnyj Zhurnal, Scopus, AGRIS, Agricola, Biological Preview, etc.

We celebrate this anniversary with this special issue and hope you will enjoy the next decades of the *Vestnik Zoologii*.