

Yuri Alexandrovich Popov – 75th birthday

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Yuri Alexandrovich Popov was born in Moscow, Russia, on 5th March 1936. In 1954 he completed his secondary school education in Moscow, and in 1959 he graduated from the Faculty of Biology of Moscow State University, Department of Entomology. The topic of his diploma was “The heteropteran fauna of the Western Tian-Shan”, based on the rich material (several thousand items) he collected in 1957-1958 during a botanical expedition from the Great Botanical Garden in Moscow. The greater part of this collection was presented and analysed in his publications in the then Czechoslovakia (POPOV 1965, 1969), and also in different Russian journals (POPOV 1960, 1964, 1966). Since 1959 he has worked at the Palaeontological Institute of the Russian (formerly Soviet) Academy of Sciences (PIN RAS) in the Arthropod Laboratory, in the capacity of senior technical worker (1959-1961), junior research worker (1961-1971), secretary for international scientific contacts in the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (1971-1975), head of the Soviet Part of the Joint Soviet-Mongolian Palaeontological Expedition (1975-1981), and senior research worker from 1981 to the present. In 1969 he submitted his PhD thesis on “The historical development of water bugs of the infraorder Nepomorpha (Heteroptera)”, which was later published as a book (POPOV 1971) and informally translated into English by H. Vaitaitis and M. Parsons. Some reviewers considered this work to be worthy of a doctor of sciences degree. He is Professor (Senior Scientific Researcher) and Curator at the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, with the suborder Heteroptera as his main responsibility.

The scientific interests of Yuri A. Popov are concentrated mainly on the taxonomy, phylogeny, evolution, morphology and ecology of fossil and recent hemipteran insects (Heteroptera and Coleorrhyncha). His ability to determine true bugs, particularly fossil specimens, is highly appreciated. With time he has become a great specialist in the

heteropteran fossil insects and one of the leading experts in the world among contemporary hemipterologists. The research activity of Yuri Popov may be divided into three stages.

The first one (1959-1972) was devoted mainly to the intensive study of contemporary and fossil bugs as well as the preparation for publication of a series of works on the terrestrial bug fauna of central Asia and the Volga Delta (see list). In this period, his first contacts with Poland were established after Professor S.M. Klimaszewski, who was already at that time a well known specialist on Hemiptera, Psyllidae, had visited the Arthropod Laboratory of the Palaeontological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1964. As a result of active discussions and their joint work on hemipteran insects and the liking they took to each other, they became good friends, a friendship that endured to the end of Professor Klimaszewski's life. In 1969 Yuri Popov came to the Zoological Institute of Warsaw for 6 months to work on the systematics and morphology of the water bugs in the rich collection of this Institute. This visit took place within the framework of an inter-academic agreement between the Polish Academy of Sciences and the USSR Academy of Sciences. The world-famous hemipterologist Professor Tadeusz L. Jaczewski, who had greatly influenced the formation of systematic and morphological views on the water bugs of the Nepomorpha infra-order, helped Yuri greatly in the study of this group of insects. During this first visit Yuri also became acquainted with Professor Henryk Szelegiewicz, the well-known specialist on Aphidoidea (Hemiptera). Later, they published a joint work (1978-1979) on the extinct Permian Hemiptera (Sternorrhyncha) from Russia (the former USSR). The next visit was to Lublin University at the invitation of Professor Klimaszewski, where he had the chance to make detailed acquaintance with the work of the Laboratory headed by Klimaszewski.

The second stage (1973-1991) was devoted to the continuation of a total systematic study of the bug fauna and their close relatives from the groups of sucking heteropteran insects of the Mesozoic and also to questions of general classification of the Hemiptera (POPOV 1980, 1981, 1989). Special consideration was given to the study of the families of the Heteroptera from different Mesozoic localities in Siberia and Mongolia, and in this period the greater number of his publications focused on these themes. Being the head of the Soviet Part of the Joint Soviet-Mongolian Palaeontological Expedition, he was able to organize several palaeoentomological field groups, usually led by Alexandr G. Ponomarenko, and collected several thousand insects, mainly from the Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous deposits of western, central and southern Mongolia. As a result, a series of monographs and a large number of articles on these regions were published (see the Bibliography). In this period Yuri Popov began a special study of representatives of another hemipterous suborder, the Coleorrhyncha ("moss bugs"), which is phylogenetically close to but more ancient than Heteroptera. Its representatives were numerous and widespread in the

Jurassic and the Early Cretaceous periods (POPOV 1982, 1986, 1988, 1989). Their further research was successfully continued together with Dmitry E. Shcherbakov (POPOV & SHCHERBAKOV 1988, 1991, 1996) and later on with the well-known Polish hemipterologist Jacek Szwedo (Museum and Institute of Zoology PAS, Warsaw). At the same time his first publications on bugs from Baltic (POPOV 1978, CARVALHO & POPOV 1984) and Dominican (POPOV 1987, 1989) ambers appeared. This new interest of Yuri in the heteropteran fauna in Eocene Baltic amber, an extensive collection of which is preserved in the Museum of the Earth of the Polish Academy of Sciences, led in the early 1980s to the establishment of close scientific contacts with the curators of this collection Professor Barbara Kosmowska-Ceranowicz and Dr Róża Kulicka. These contacts developed into friendships that have continued to the present day. As a result of this cooperation a series of joint taxonomic publications appeared (mainly jointly with Professor A. Herczek) that are based on the materials of this collection (see the Bibliography).

The third stage (1992-2011) may be called “the amber one”, since the greater part of the publications in it deal with the description of bugs from Baltic and Dominican ambers (see the Bibliography). The majority of the articles were written jointly with colleagues Aleksander Herczek (Miridae, Anthocoridae and Microphysidae), Viktor B. Golub (Tingidae) and Pavel V. Putshkov (Reduviidae). It is in this period that the close, long-standing and productive cooperation of Yuri with the Department of Zoology of the Silesian University in Katowice, mainly with Professor A. Herczek, began. This cooperation was always supported and encouraged by the Rector of the Silesian University, Professor S.M. Klimaszewski, and the head of the Department, Professor Waclaw Wojciechowski.

For many years, considerable help in the joint study of fossil material (both amber and stone remains) was given by the world-famous hemipterologist Professor Jan Koteja (Kraków) – a good friend and colleague of the Russian palaeontologists from the PIN Arthropod Laboratory. There has also been close cooperation for many years with colleagues from Kraków – Professors Wiesław Krzemiński and Ewa Krzemińska (Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, PAS, Kraków), when the collections of the Museum and the Arthropod Laboratory were jointly used in some publications (e.g. KRZEMIŃSKI & LUKASHEVICH 1993, LUKASHEVICH et al. 1998).

In the last ten years Yuri Popov regularly participated in the traditional international meetings (“Amberif”) in Gdańsk, where specialists in the study of organic remains (mainly Insecta) in Baltic amber participated. There, amber collectors and researchers exchange, sell and identify the contents of inclusions, and hold scientific seminars devoted to amber, which are followed by publications in special issues of the journal of the Museum of Amber Inclusions of Gdańsk University (Professor Ryszard Szadziwski and Dr. Elżbieta Sontag) and the Museum of the Earth (Professor B. Kosmowska-Ceranowicz) “Bursztynisko”.



Yuri Popov in Ulan-Bator, 1980.



Fossils X3, Beijing, 2010. Post-Congress Tour. Fossils Museum in Chaoyang. Yuri with Colleague.
(Photo: A. Herczek).

In his works Yuri Popov paid special attention to the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods of the whole world and the associated biostratigraphic and palaeogeographic questions, as well to the problems of the origin of individual heteroptero-faunas within Eurasia (western Europe, central Asia, Siberia, Mongolia and China) and South America (Brazil and Argentina). In the field of taxonomy he is the author of three new heteropteran infraorders (Nepomorpha, Gerromorpha and Leptopodomorpha), 8 families, 12 subfamilies, 15 tribes, over 100 genera and nearly 200 fossil and recent species. He has published more than 150 articles, book chapters on the above groups, including the above-mentioned monograph on water bugs (POPOV 1971).

Yuri Popov participated in and presented reports to the 13th (Moscow, Russia, 1968), 14th (Kyoto, Japan, 1980) and 18th (Vancouver, Canada, 1988) International Congresses of Entomology on questions of the general systematics and phylogeny of hemipteran insects, International Conferences on the main results of the Joint Soviet-Mongolian Palaeontological Expedition in 1969-1979 (Ulan-Bator, Mongolia, 1979) and the Joint Russian-Mongolian Palaeontological Expedition from 1969 to 2009 (Moscow, 2009), the 9th International Auchenorrhyncha Congress in Australia (Sydney, 1997), the 3rd European Hemiptera Congress in Russia (St. Petersburg, 2004), the 1st Palaeontological Conference in Russia (Moscow, 1998), the 2nd International Congress on Palaeontology in Poland (Kraków, 2001), the 3rd International Congress of Palaeontology in South Africa (Pretoria, 2005), the 4th International Congress of Palaeontology (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, Spain, 2007), and the 5th International Conference of Fossil Insects in China (Beijing, 2010).

Membership of scientific organizations

Russian Entomological Society, Moscow, Russia;
Russian Palaeontological Society, Moscow, Russia;
Moscow Society of Naturalists, Moscow, Russia;
Russian Bird Conservation Union, Moscow, Russia;
Polish Taxonomical Society, Wrocław, Poland;
Amber Society “Arbeitskreis Bernstein”, Hamburg, Germany;
International Palaeontological Society (IPS), honorary member.

The list of patronyms for Yuri A. Popov

Clathricoscinus popovi VLASOV, 1964 (Sphinctozoa, Archaecyathi; Cambrian of western Siberia).

- Sikstelliana popovi* WOOTTON & BECKER-MIGDISOVA, 1965 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Homoptera; Middle-Upper Triassic of southern Kirghizia).
- Ostracindusia popovi* VIALOV & SUKATSHEVA, 1976 (Insecta, Trichoptera; Lower Cretaceous of Mongolia).
- Blaesoxipha juri* VERVES, 1980 (Insecta, Diptera, Recent).
- Oebalia popovi* ROHDENDORF & VERVES, 1980 (Insecta, Diptera, Recent).
- Plutopteryx popovi* SINITSHENKOVA, 1985 (Insecta, Plecoptera, Baleyopterigidae; Middle Jurassic of southern Siberia).
- Cretolimonia popovi* KALUGINA, 1986 (Insecta, Diptera, Lower Cretaceous of western Mongolia).
- Stichopterus popovi* JAKOVLEV, 1986 (Fishes, Acipenseriformes, Chondrosteidae; Lower Cretaceous of Mongolia).
- Rhomboidella popovi* MAZZONI & HÜNICKEN, 1987 (Insecta, Heteroptera, Corixidae; Lower Cretaceous of Argentina).
- Eomarsucoccus popovi* KOTEJA, 1988 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Coccoidea; Lower Cretaceous of Siberia).
- Blattulopsis popovi* PINTO (Insecta, Blattodea, Mesoblattinidae; Lower Cretaceous of Argentina).
- Yuripopovia woottoni* JARZEMBOWSKI, 1991 (Insecta, Coleorrhyncha, Progonocimicidae; Lower Cretaceous of England).
- Macroscythus popovi* LIS, 1991 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Cydnidae; Recent).
- Paracyrtophyllites popovi* GOROCHOV, 1992 (Insecta, Orthoptera, Tuphelliidae; Upper Jurassic of southern Mongolia).
- Mongoligena popovi* ALEKSEEV, 1993 (Insecta, Coleoptera, Buprestidae; Lower Cretaceous of Mongolia).
- Popoviana fijiensis* HERCZEK, 1993 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae; Recent).
- Cacopsylla popovi* KLIMASZEWSKI, 1993 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Psylloidea; Lower Miocene of Crimea).
- Aradus popovi* HEISS, 1998 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Aradidae; Eocene Baltic amber).
- Tipula popovi* KRZEMIŃSKI, 2000 (Insecta, Diptera, Tipulidae; Oligocene of eastern Siberia).
- Archepopovia yurii* GOLUB, 2001 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Tingidae; Eocene Baltic amber).
- Palaeoludus popovi* SUKATSHEVA et JARZEMBOWSKI, 2001 (Insecta, Trichoptera, Dysoneuridae; Lower Cretaceous of England).
- Yurigocimex popovi* MARTENS-NETO, 2003 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Coleorrhyncha, Progonocimicidae; Middle-Upper Triassic of Argentina).

- Popovigocimex yurii* MARTENS-NETO, 2003 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Coleorrhyncha, Progonocimicidae; Middle-Upper Triassic of Argentina).
- Nuurcala popovi* VRŠANSKY, 2003 (Insecta, Blattaria, Calloblattinidae; Lower Cretaceous of Mongolia).
- Peritropis popovi* GORCZYCA, 2006 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae; Recent).
- Sinopachymeridium popovi* YAO, CAI et REN, 2006 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pachymeridiidae; Middle Jurassic of China).
- Juracipeda popovi* SHCHERBAKOV, 2007 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Nabidae; Upper Jurassic of Siberia).
- Popovus pygmaeus* (POPOV, 1986), new substitute name ÖZDIKMEN et DEMIR, 2007 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Coleorrhyncha, Progonocimicidae; Lower Cretaceous of Mongolia).
- Libanohypselosoma popovi* gen. et sp. nov. AZAR et NEL, 2010 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera Schizopteridae; Lower Cretaceous amber of Lebanon).
- Karataviella popovi* ZHANG, 2010 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Corixidae; Middle-Upper Jurassic of China).
- Sinovelia popovi* YAO, ZHANG et REN, 2011 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Mesoveliidae; Lower Cretaceous of China).
- Popovophysa antzingeri* MCKELLAR et ENGEL, 2011 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Microphysidae; Upper Cretaceous amber of Canada).
- Yuripopoviniidae AZAR, NEL, ENGEL, GARROUSE et MATOCQ, 2011 and *Yuripopovina* AZAR, NEL, ENGEL, GARROUSE et MATOCQ, 2011 (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Coreoidea; Lower Cretaceous Lebanese amber).

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