

[Short Communication]

A Dedication to the 70th Anniversary of Late Prof. Dmitrii A. Krivolutsky

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Abstract

This work is dedicated to the 70th birthday of late professor and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, D. A. Krivolutsky, a man of exceptional abilities and experiences, and one of the leading acarologists and soil zoologists in Russia. He was one of the scientists who led to the development of modern acarology and soil zoology in Russia and some other countries through his scientific, teaching and organizational activities. He has dedicated his scientific career to discovering and describing biological diversity of Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union.



A scientific conference dedicated to the birthday of D.A. Krivolutsky. On 28-30 September 2009, the second scientific conference, “*Soil Biogeography*” was held at the Moscow State University, Russia, which was dedicated to the 70th birthday of late Prof. Dmitrii Alexandrovich Krivolutsky, an eminent soil zoologist and ecologist of Russia. The Department of Biogeography, Moscow State University in cooperation with the Insti-

tute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) organized this conference, as D. A. Krivolutsky worked for more than 40 years through his scientific and teaching activities at both institutions. Two of his former students, Drs. A. S. Zaitsev and K. B. Gongalsky were responsible for all organizing and social activities during the conference, and many students, scientists and close colleagues, as well as relatives of Prof. D. A. Krivolutsky who arrived from different regions of Russia and from abroad participated.

More than 40 speeches have been discussed at the conference with addition of about 50 poster presentations, which were sectioned into six different sessions as Plenary session, Geographical factors affecting the distribution of soil organisms, Soil biota and its role in the dynamics of biogeocoenosis, Biological methods for diagnostics of soils, Biogeography of oribatid mites and Poster session. The proceedings of the conference were published by the Moscow State University Press, which contained abstracts of all presented works, written mainly in Russian (Gongalsky *et al.*, 2009).

Participants of the conference discussed various aspects of biogeography of soil biota, as well as about the scientific heritages of Prof. D. A. Krivolutsky. Two of the plenary session speakers, N. V. Lebedeva (2009a) and B. Bayartogtokh (2009) dedicated their speeches to discuss about the ideas developed by D. A. Krivolutsky on dispersal of soil oribatid mites with plumage of birds in the Arctic, and his contributions to the knowledge of soil mites of the world, respectively.