

OBITUARY

ARIADNA NIKOLAEVNA POPOVA

One of the notable Soviet odonatologists, Mrs. ARIADNA NIKOLAEVNA POPOVA*, deceased in Leningrad on the 30th of January, 1972.

She was born in 1897 in the town of Hvalynsk, Saratov province, USSR, as a daughter of a physician. In 1924 she graduated from Saratov University.

In 1920, still a student, Miss Popova was appointed a Research Assistant at the Volga Biological Station at Saratov, which, at that time, stood under the direction of the well known limnologist, Prof. A.L. BEHNING, who became her scientific adviser. In that period Miss Popova was studying the Volga benthos and the diets of fish, crustaceans and aquatic insects. At this early stage of her career she was first attracted by the biology of dragonfly



* Other transliterations: A.N. POPOWA, Mlle A.N. POPOV.

larvae, which was to remain her favourite field till the end of her life. The Station encouraged her odonatological interests by sending her out for advanced studies with the prominent odonatologist, Prof. A.N. BARTENEV.

In 1931 Miss Popova left Saratov and worked as a hydrobiologist in several scientific institutions till, in 1937, she was offered a position at the Institute of Zoology of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. It was only then, that the work on the biology of the odonate larval stages became her principal task. Soon she was honoured with a Candidate's degree, without maintaining a thesis. Shortly after, she married the distinguished hymenopterologist of the same surname, Dr. V.V. POPOV.

The Leningrad years represent the most fruitful period in Mrs. Popova's scientific career, crowned by her well known monograph on the odonate larvae of the USSR. This book is the result of many years of careful field and laboratory observations, combined with an extensive knowledge of the pertinent world literature. In the same period she also published a series of other odonatological papers, including an excellent study of the larval morphology of *Epallage fatime*.

In 1953 her health deteriorated and she had to retire on a pension.

Mrs. A.N. Popova published 21 technical papers; 15 of these were either entirely or partly devoted to dragonflies. In her other publications she dealt with dipteran biology (*Anopheles* and *Ephydra*), feeding habits of trichopteran larvae and *Artemia*, and with the hyperhaline aquatic biocoenoses.

Mrs. Popova was known for her exceptional capacities in field work, and she took part in a number of scientific expeditions to the peripheral provinces of the Soviet Union. She was an excellent comrade, always ready to share her rich human and scientific experience with younger colleagues.

It is for all these qualities that she will be greatly missed among the dragonfly students in her home country as well as abroad.

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* Where originally given, this titles of the summaries are stated verbatim, even if they slightly deviate from the original Russian text.

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