

**TO DR. BORIS FEODOROVICH BELYSHEV ON HIS
65th BIRTHDAY**

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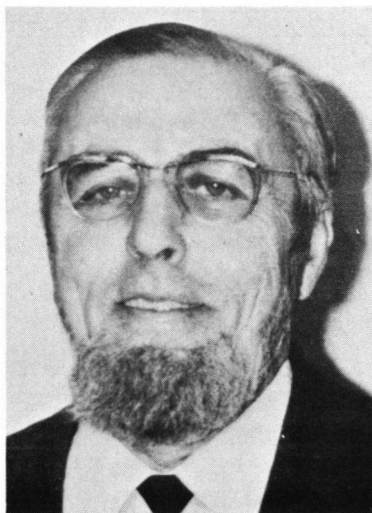
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A short biography and appreciation of odonatological work of B.F. BELYSHEV, the most prolific living soviet odonatologist, are followed by a list of new taxa he described in the order and by his odonatological bibliography (1951-1974, 1975 partim). Most of his work is devoted to fauna, biology, taxonomy and geography of palearctic Asia, but it includes also several noteworthy contributions on the geography of the World dragonfly fauna.

We consider it a special privilege to have the opportunity to write a few lines on our esteemed colleague and friend, whose work of many decades has not only set an inspiring example to young workers, but will remain a solid basis for further research on dragonflies of palearctic Asia and their geography elsewhere. His broad biological knowledge and interests, and his deep love of Nature, together with his thorough approach of scientific problems and with his warm and unassuming way of communicating with



colleagues, made him one of the prominent personalities in the odonatological world. His original and daring views on some of the most intriguing puzzles of holarctic insect geography and faunal history opened up new fields of research.

BORIS FEODOROVICH BELYSHEV was born in Tomsk, USSR, December 13, 1910, in the family of a staff member of the local Institute of Technology. His father, Feodor Belyshev, was a man of encyclopedical knowledge and interests, who very soon aroused his son's interest in natural sciences. Boris was only 12 when he attended a course in inorganic chemistry at his father's institution; later, under his father's direction, he continued systematical studies of analytical chemistry in the laboratory of the Institute.

For a romantic young boy the world of chemistry was too dull and he soon turned his interests to the living creatures around him. After botany it was ornithology that fascinated him. From the very beginning he approached the new field with the thoroughness so characteristic of his later scientific career. He was only 16 when his first technical ornithological note appeared in the local journal, *Uragus*, followed by a long line of articles and bird notes in later years. As a matter of course he became one of the most active members of the Ornithological Society of Siberia and, two years later, the society's Chairman and Editor of the *Uragus*. At approximately the same time he matriculated at Tomsk University, which he left in 1930 to continue his studies at the University of Leningrad.

In 1932 B.F. Belyshev received his first appointment as a game biologist and research worker at the Novosibirsk Museum. Only three years was he allowed to devote himself to research, for in 1935 his work was abruptly interrupted and not until the early fifties could he resume it. From 1955 through 1958 he was a Lecturer at the Biisk Institute of Pedagogics, in 1959 he was appointed a Scientific Officer in the Institute of Biology of the Irkutsk Academy of Sciences, and since 1967 he is associated with the Biology Institute of the Siberian Section of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk.

In 1951 Belyshev published his first odonatological paper on the biology and taxonomy of *Epitheca bimaculata*. Here, all his future odonatological interests are already apparent. It is not a "beginner's" article, but a well balanced, though



Fig. 2. As a student at Tomsk University, Chairman of the Ornithological Society of Siberia, and Editor of the *Uragus* (1929).

short, publication, showing how well the author was prepared for odonatological work. This fact is also apparent from the long bibliography of his Biisk years, more or less organically concluded by his M.Sc. Thesis on the odonate fauna of the Upper Ob region.



Fig. 3. A year after he was awarded the D.Sc. degree at the University of Irkutsk (1965).

From the time of his departure for Irkutsk, B.F. Belyshev gradually developed into one of the prominent soviet odonatologists. The city on the shores of the Baikal Lake chimed exceptionally well with his scientific interests and his romantic nature. His Irkutsk years were spent in the study of dragonflies of the Transbaikal, Far East and the Arctic, collected on numerous long and often hard expeditions. For a field biologist, whose dream it was to live in a small forest cabin on the shore of a lake, these were very happy years, spent in hard and rewarding work, and resulting in 1964 in a voluminous D.Sc. Thesis, of nearly 1000 typewritten pages, on the "Odonate fauna of Siberia", which he defended at Irkutsk University.

While in Novosibirsk, little changed in the intensity of Dr. Belyshev's odonatological work. The history of the holarctic fauna remained in the centre of his interest and his series of publications on the geography of Siberian dragonflies will for long remain indispensable to anyone interested in the fauna of this vast area. During this time he also started the enormous compendium on the "Dragonflies of Siberia", the three volumes of which appeared in 1973 and 1974. This outstanding monograph is certainly a landmark in soviet odontology and few regional monographs in the world literature can be compared with it in scope and organisation of the material presented.

In recent years Dr. Belyshev feels more and more attracted by problems of odonate geography of other faunal regions — an interest that resulted in the publication of a number of papers on the composition and history of dragonfly faunas of the Ethiopian, Australian and Nearctic regions.

The scientific bibliography of Dr. Belyshev includes well over 200 titles, nearly 150 of which are in the field of odontology. Among these there are also popular booklets for non-specialists interested in identification of dragonflies, and articles on dragonflies in local dailies. The importance of his work for the

popularization of odonatology in the Soviet Union can hardly be overappreciated, and his contributions to odonatology in general are certainly outstanding.

Appreciating the scientific oeuvre of Dr. Belyshev one should bear in mind the special features of his personal "life history", that were often much less favourable than those of most of his colleagues-odonatologists. Being a pupil of the great Russian classic, Prof. N.N. BARTENEV (1882-1946), Dr. Belyshev lived and worked as a lone worker. His numerous contacts by correspondence with most of the contemporary odonatologists must have been a poor substitute for direct personal contacts as enjoyed by many workers living in less isolated positions.

It was perhaps for this reason, that Dr. Belyshev was one of the very first odonatologists who, as early as 1965, wholeheartedly rendered support to the idea of founding an international odonatological society and an international odonatological journal. It is certainly true that his moral support and his "Open Letter" to the Participants of the First European Symposium of Odonatology in Ghent, Belgium (1971) have given the so much needed starting signal for the venture. Dr. Belyshev is thus one of the Founders of S.I.O. and, in view of his merits for the Society on one hand and for the science of odonatology on the other, it was only natural that he was elected a Member of Honour at the very birth of the Society. Since then he served first on the Referee and then on the Editorial Board of *Odonatologica*.

Dr. Belyshev may have been too rash in some of his zoogeographic speculations and theories, and occasionally his hypotheses may still need further confirmation, but his daring and original approach will certainly stimulate many workers to continue along the lines he has opened up. And this, finally, is the guarantee for the future development of our discipline. We wish him to be able to inspire his co-workers for many more years.

NEW ODONATE TAXA DESCRIBED BY DR. B.F. BELYSHEV

The list includes all taxonomic names introduced by dr. B.F. Belyshev (in *bold italic*), regardless of their taxonomic status. Some of them were proposed solely as names of "forms" and "aberrations".

In nearly all of his papers Dr. Belyshev adheres to the "*Agrion-Calopteryx*" nomenclature, which has been modified in the below list into "*Coenagrion-Calopteryx*".

Coenagrionidae	<i>C. glaciale orientale</i> 1973 g: 99-103, figs. 1-2
<i>Coenagrion armatum minor</i> 1955 a: 389	<i>C. glaciale orientale fusca</i> 1973 g: 99-103, figs. 1-2
<i>C. concinum bartenevi</i> 1955 a: 389	

C. glaciale orientale pallida 1973 g: 99-103, figs. 1-2
C. hylas hylas pallida 1974 c: 27
C. hylas meridionalis 1955 a: 389
C. hylas ussuriensis 1956 c: 196-197
C. hylas ussuriensis nigra 1974 c: 28
C. puella ivanovi 1955 a: 389
C. pulchellum nigrum 1964 b: 62, fig. 4
C. pulchellum saisanicum 1964 b: 62, fig. 4
C. pulchellum sibiricum 1964 b: 60-64, fig. 4

Enallagma circulatum continentalis 1956 c: 198
Erythromma najas baicalensis 1964 g: 9-10
Nehalennia speciosa sibirica 1964 b: 50-52, fig. 2

Lestidae

Lestes uncutus skaloni 1959 a: 173-174
L. virens marikovskii 1961 k: 37

Calopterygidae

Calopteryx splendens johanseni 1955 b: 27-28
C. virgo altaica 1955 a: 388-389

Aeshnidae

Aeschnophlebia zygoptera 1965 f: 1864-1865, fig. 2
Aeshna baicalensis 1964 h: 8-9, fig. 1
A. crenata translucida 1973 a: 26
A. crenata wnukowskii 1973 a: 26

Corduliidae

Cordulia aenea selysi 1956 c: 190
Epithea bimaculata altaica 1951: 504-505, fig. 1
Somatochlora arctica fuscoptera 1974 d: 31-32
S. metallica abocanica 1955 a: 388
S. sahlbergi relicta 1971 c: 5-6

Libellulidae

Leucorrhinia albifrons polymaculata 1955 a: 389
L. dubia orientalis 1956 c: 182
Libellula quadrimaculata orientalis 1956 c: 181-182
L. relicta 1973 e: 193-199, fig. 46 (not "Belyshev & Kiauta", in Belyshev 1968 c: 411-412, 536; it is used there as a *nomen nudum*)
Orthetrum cancellatum orientale 1958 d: 37, 40
Sympetrum croceolum fuscoatrum 1964 a: 55
S. flaveolum minor 1955 a: 388
S. pedemontanum intermedium 1955 a: 388
S. pedemontanum kurentzovi 1956 c: 184-186
S. sanguineum sykinia 1955 a: 388
S. striolatum doshidordzii 1958 d: 35-36, 40, fig. 1
S. vulgatum fuscoptera 1971 d: 167, 170

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