

TO NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH AKRAMOWSKI ON HIS 70th BIRTHDAY

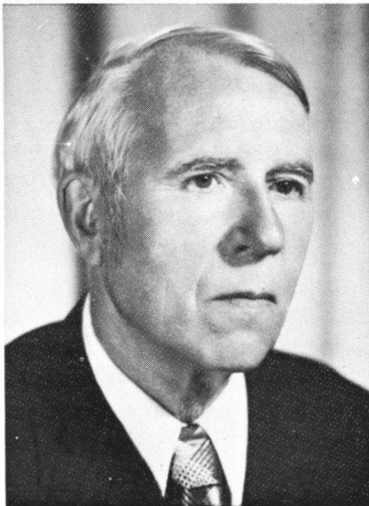
B.F. BELYSHEV¹ and B. KIAUTA²

¹Institute of Biology, Siberian Section of the USSR Academy of Sciences
(CO AH CCP), Ul. Frunse 11, USSR-630091 Novosibirsk

²Department of Animal Cytogenetics and Cytotaxonomy, University of Utrecht,
Padualaan 8, Utrecht, The Netherlands

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A short biography and appreciation of odonatological work of N.N. AKRAMOWSKI are followed by his odonatological bibliography (1939-1975). In addition to a monograph on the odonate fauna of the Armenian SSR, most of his dragonfly work is devoted to the fauna of the Caucasian and Transcaucasian territories, USSR.



Of the more than 350 members of the International Society of Odonatology there are but few to whom the Society and, particularly, the abstracting service of ODONATOLOGICA, owes as much as it does to N.N. Akramowski. It is therefore with great pleasure that we are taking this opportunity to dedicate the present issue of our journal to him.

According to the Julian calendar used in the Russian Empire, NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH AKRAMOWSKI was born in Kazan, USSR, in the family of a professional Army Officer, on November 21, 1906 which corresponds to December 4 of the modern

(Gregorian) calendar. He passed his youth in his native city until he graduated, in 1930, from the Biology Section of Kazan State University, where he specialized in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology.

His first appointment, in the same year, led him to Yerevan (Erevan), capital of Soviet Armenia. Save for an interruption during the Second World War years 1942-1945, he spent his entire career in Yerevan: first as a Lecturer in the Department of General Biology of the Zootechnical and Veterinary Institute, since 1934 as a Senior Lecturer in the Zoology Department of Yerevan State University; after the war as a Research Officer and, from 1950 onwards, as a Senior Research Officer in the Institute of Zoology of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, in which capacity he is still working at present. It was during his early years with the Academy, that he obtained the grade of Candidate of Biological Sciences; his thesis dealt with the "Land molluscs of the Gnishik Village Territory in Soviet Armenia".

*Mr. Akramowski felt attracted by dragonflies already at an early stage of his career. His first publication, on the odonate fauna of the (Transcaucasian) Nakhichevan Republic, appeared in 1939, and was followed, in 1948, by his outstanding monograph on the dragonflies of Soviet Armenia. Until today this is the most important source of information on the odonate fauna of this zoologically extremely interesting and intriguing region. Although, in later years, he was engaged mainly in malacological research, about one fourth of his scientific publications deal with various odonatological subjects, – faunistics, zoogeography, nomenclature, taxonomy, larval morphology and conservation. In his 1948 paper he also described two new infraspecific taxa, viz. *Calopteryx splendens erevanense* and *Sympetrum flaveolum austrinum*.*

Odonatologists throughout the world feel like belonging to one large family. In this family, Nikolai Nikolaevich takes a very special place. Not only by his unusually broad knowledge of western languages, but, in the first place, because of his warm and active companionship, he became an indispensable link between western odonatologists on one hand, and various soviet institutions, libraries and museums on the other. No dragonfly worker who ever turned to him for any kind of assistance, be it difficultly obtainable literature, museum specimens, data on types or other material for examination, has ever been disappointed. Although such requests often involve complicated operations to be carried out by a third person, Mr. Akramowski always finds a way to deal effectively with the problem. It is solely due to his unselfish services and liaison that the soviet material often is much more readily accessible abroad than otherwise would be the case.

Because his ready and efficient cooperation in odonatological problems had been experienced so often by so many, the Executive of the newly born International Society of Odonatology had an easy choice as to whom to approach with the request to get the Society introduced among the soviet colleagues and institutions, and to assist with the preparation of abstracts of soviet odonatological literature. The appeal has not been in vain. Already in December 1971 Nikolai Nikolaevich started his indispensable services to SIO

and, at the same time, applied to the Presidium of the Armenian Academy of Sciences for a formal permission to accept the office in the Editorial Board of *ODONATOLOGICA*. The latter has been granted in February 1972. In this way he has become, from the first hour of the venture, one of the most active Editors of the Odonatological Abstracts section. It is solely due to his efforts that *ODONATOLOGICA* can cover the vast Russian odonatological literature adequately.

Aside from his official editorial work, Nikolai Nikolaevich plays a very important role as *de facto* representative of SIO in the Soviet Union on one hand, and of soviet odonatology in SIO on the other. This is a personal friendliness rather than a formal office, but the ever increasing frequency with which his liaison is being sought clearly shows how much it is needed and appreciated. We wish him the strength and the health to carry on for many more years.

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* Transliterated also as N.N. AKRAMOVSKIJ.

** Russian titles have been transliterated only where the paper has no summary in a western language. Where there is such a summary, the title of the latter is given only.

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