BORIS FEODOROVICH BELYSHEV



Our teacher, colleague and friend, B.F. Belyshev, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Charter Member and Member of Honour of the International Odonatological Society, the doyen of Russian odonatology, departed from us on April 9, 1993, at the age of 82 (born December 13, 1910).

Like many Russian scientists, Boris Feodorovich lived and worked under extremely hard conditions. Nevertheless, his scientific activities resulted in some 200 publications, among which 7 books. Although he never had the opportunity to travel abroad, he was in touch with most of the active workers of his time, throughout the world. In Novosibirsk, he organised the odonate collection at the Institute of Biology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and set up the Cabinet of Odonatology, comprising a small group of workers, who are continuing the research along the avenues opened up by him. So far there were 4 members in the team, but recently a Research Student, Ms OLGA POPOVA, has joined the group. She is making her first steps in odonatology, and she is the last worker that still had enjoyed the privilege of having been personally coached by Boris Feodorovich. He departed from this world in the hope that his work will be continued in what he tended to call "a Russian Branch of the world-wide family of odonatologists".

The international community marked Dr Belyshev's 65th birthday in *Odonatologica* 4(4): 207-218 (1975), and celebrated his 80th birthday by dedicating to him the first issue of the 20th volume of that journal (1991). In addition, 2 valid

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Fig. 2. [added by the Editors]. Facsimile of a page from Dr Belyshev's extract from N.N. Bartenev's 1913 paper in *Russk. ent. Obozr.* 13(1): 176-189. — During the grave years of his "diapause", Boris Feodorovich had seen the chance to make handwritten excerpts of almost the complete literature pertaining to the odonate fauna of Russia and central Asia, though he often had no conventional writing material and had to manufacture ink by himself. Many of his extracts represent almost complete transcripts, with carefully redrawn morphology figures and distribution maps. — A collection of 85 of these unique historical documents is in the Kiauta Library, Bilthoven.

dragonfly taxa, *Drepanosticta belyshevi* Hämäläinen, 1991 and *Progomphus belyshevi* Belle, 1991 will for ever perpetuate his name in the dragonfly world.

In our minds, Boris Feodorovich will remain a shining symbol of a teacher and friend, and we shall remain true to his ideal of a selfless devotion to the science of odonatology.

A.Yu. Haritonov, Institute of Biology, Siberian Section of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Frunze St. 11, RUS-630091 Novosibirsk, Russia