

## In Memoriam Dr Orest A. Scarlato

On 13 October 1994, at the age of 74, Orest A. Scarlato, Director of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and a prominent zoologist and marine biologist, suddenly passed away.

Orest Scarlato was born on 21 August 1920 in Novorzhev, Pskov Region, into a seaman's family. Soon after entering the Faculty of Biology of Leningrad University he was called up to the army and served during WWII, as was the fate of many of his generation. He was wounded twice. In 1945 he returned to the University, studying first at the Department of Hydrobiology and then at the Department of Invertebrate Zoology under the supervision of the eminent zoologist Prof. V. A. Dogiel. O. A. Scarlato developed an early interest in marine molluscs. Already as a student he revealed self-discipline, accuracy, and an ability to analyze information properly, traits which permitted him to graduate the University with honours. O. A. Scarlato continued his training as a postgraduate student at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences under such well-known scientists as E. F. Gurjanova, V. I. Zhadin, G. U. Lindberg, and P. V. Ushakov. He published a monograph on bivalve molluscs of the Far Eastern Sea in 1960, based on his Candidate's thesis, and a second monograph on bivalve molluscs of the northwestern Pacific Ocean in 1980, based on his Doctor's thesis. In these monographs he elaborated and helped unify the systematics of bivalve molluscs. During his life, O. A. Scarlato authored more than 200 scientific publications.

Orest Scarlato participated in many expeditions: to the Kurile Islands and Sakhalin, the Yellow and East China Seas, and the shallows of the Far Eastern seas (Possjet, Sakhalin, and Kuril expeditions), where he and A. N. Golikov elaborated a technique for studying marine fauna using light diving equipment.

In 1954 Orest Scarlato was appointed Scientific Secretary of the Zoological Institute, in 1963 Deputy Director, and in 1974 Director. In 1981 he was elected as a Corresponding Member and in 1992 as a Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Orest Scarlato conducted an enormous amount of scientific and organizational work. He was a member of the Bureau of the General Biology Department, Russian Academy of Sciences; a member of the Presidium of the St. Petersburg Science Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences; Chairman of the Section 'Syst-



Dr Orest Scarlato, 1920–1994

tematics, Faunistics, Phylogeny' of the Scientific Council on the Problems of Study, Conservation, and Rational Utilization of the Animal World, at the General Biology Department, Russian Academy of Sciences; Chairman of the Scientific Council on Protection of the Environment, Joint Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Head of the Section 'Seas of Russia' and the Project 'White Sea' of the State Science and Technology Program 'Study of Oceans and Seas of the Arctic and Antarctic' at the Ministry of Science of the Russian Federation, and Head of the Shelf Commission of the Russian Geographic Society; a member of the presidia of the Geographic, Hydrobiological and Malacological societies; President of the Committee of Mammoth and Mammoth Fauna Research at the Department of General Biology, Russian Academy of Sciences; etc. From 1979 to 1990 he served as Editorial Advisor to MEPS. In April 1994 he became an honorary Director of the Paleontological Museum of Nagano, Japan.

It is difficult to imagine that one person could manage all of these responsibilities, even with the assistance of many people.

Nearly the entire life of Orest A. Scarlato was connected with the Zoological Institute, a long period of 45 years; for 40 years he was in charge of the Institute and proved himself a talented administrator. He died during a trip to Darmstadt, Germany, where he had arrived to open an exhibition of the Zoological Institute.

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