

## In Memoriam Vladimir Kasyanov

Vladimir Leonidovich Kasyanov died on October 1, 2005. In the course of his ever-busy administrative career in recent years, he was hurrying for an out-of-town meeting of directors of institutes of the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, when he suffered a fatal automobile accident.

Vladimir Kasyanov was born on January 4, 1940, in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). In 1962 he graduated from the Biological Department of Leningrad State University. In 1969 he received his Ph.D. degree in zoology, under the supervision of B. P. Tokin. His Ph.D. thesis dealt with the experimental embryology of amphibia. In 1971 he accepted an invitation from A. V. Zhirmunsky to head a laboratory in the newly established Institute of Marine Biology in Vladivostok (Russian Far East, on the NW shore of the Sea of Japan), to study reproduction and development in marine invertebrates, mostly in mollusks and echinoderms. In 1989 he became the Director of this institute, a position he held until his death. In later years he was burdened by many additional administrative duties, being the Editor-in-chief of 'Biologiya Morya' (Russian Journal of Marine Biology), the First Vice-Chairman of the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Director of the Academy of Ecology, Marine Biology and Biotechnology of the Far East State University, among other duties. His was a tragic career: a person of keen intelligence, an inquisitive and creative researcher, he had to spend almost all of his time on the administration of unruly institutions during a very difficult period of 'post-perestroika' chaos in Russia.

Kasyanov published many papers with his colleagues and students, describing the morphology of larvae, gametes and reproductive glands of diverse marine invertebrates. He summarized the results of his investigations in 3 books: 'Reproduction of echinoderms and bivalves' (1980, co-authored by L. A. Medvedeva, S. N. Yakovlev, Y. M. Yakovlev), 'Larvae of marine bivalves and echinoderms' (1983, co-authored by G. A. Kryuchkova, V. A. Kulikova, L. A. Medvedeva), and 'Reproductive strategy of marine bivalves and echinoderms' (1989). Updated English translations of the 2 latter books have been published in the USA by Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, DC (1998), and by Science Publishers, Enfield, NH (2001).

In recent years, Kasyanov's interests moved to problems of biodiversity and marine ecology. He organized and directed a large-scale multidisciplinary study of the Tumen River area, to conduct an ecological assessment of environmental changes in NE Asia. He partic-



Prof. Vladimir Kasyanov (1940–2005)

ipated in (and chaired) many international meetings on global climatic changes.

In his capacity as Director of the Academy of Ecology, Marine Biology and Biotechnology of the Far East University, Kasyanov paid much attention to educational matters. He lectured in reproductive biology for graduate students, and he supervised many M.S. and Ph.D. theses.

His engagement in science was appreciated by colleagues and authorities. In 1994 he was awarded the A. O. Kovalevsky medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences, of which he was a Full Member since 1991. In 2004 he received the A. P. Karpinsky Prize of the Alfred Tepfer Foundation for his research in ecology. He was Vice-President of the Otto Kinne Foundation, Vice-President of the Hydrobiology Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and an Editorial Advisor/Review Editor of MEPS.

Vladimir was a delightful person. As a student, later as a junior researcher and finally as a person of influence and authority, he was always loved and deeply respected by those who were associated with him, in academia and elsewhere. His artistic temperament and personal charm made him very welcome company at social gatherings. He was a wonderful storyteller. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him: friends, colleagues, students, and just casual acquaintances.

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