



#### IN MEMORY OF ANASTASIJA LAVRENTIEVNA ABRAMOVA (1915-2012)

Anastasiya Lavrentievna Abramova, the famous bryologist, passed away on August 6, 2012 on the 97<sup>th</sup> year of her long life.

All scientific activities of A.L. were connected with the Komarov Botanical Institute. Her numerous papers on flora, taxonomy, geography of both extant and fossil mosses contributed greatly to the development of bryology, and are well known not only in our country but also abroad.

Anastasiya Lavrentievna Abramova (Tokunova) was born on October 26, 1915 in Saint-Petersburg in the worker's family. She graduated from Leningrad University and later became its postgraduate student. Her PhD thesis, written under the guidance of University Professor A.A. Korchagin, concerned two moss families within the USSR territory, *Meesiaceae* and *Catoscopiaceae*. She also consulted with Prof. L.I. Savicz-Lyubitskaya, the leading expert-bryologist of Botanical Institute. During postgraduate studies A.L. married a fellow student Ivan Ivanovich Abramov. Their family alliance appeared to be very favourable for their scientific activities, practically all major research was performed together. In 1946, A.L. became a member staff of the Department of Cryptogams at the Botanical Institute where she worked until 1979.

Regional floristic research took large space in her scientific life, with special attention to study of the moss and hepatic flora of the Caucasus. A.L. actively participated in the project "Flora plantarum cryptogamarum URSS" and prepared the treatments of orders Schistostegalis and Tetraphidales for the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of these series published in 1954. She also prepared original drawings for species of order Polytrichalis for the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume. The beginning of her scientific life (1946-1960) coincided with the phenomenal growth of floristic and geobotany research across the country and, in particular, in its arctic regions. The study of numerous cryptogam collections from the Arctic resulted later in the collective monography "Handbook of mosses of the USSR Arctic", with A.L. among the authors. The publication of "Synopsis of the bryoflora of Mongolian People Republic" (1983), written together with I.I. Abramov, summarized the scrupulous treatment of extensive collections from Mongolia. It is necessary to

mention the papers of A.L. on moss and liverwort taxonomy and geography, *e.g.* on genera *Leptopterigynandrum*, *Helodium*, *Heterocladium*, *Neckeradelphus*, *etc.*, supplemented with excellent drawings. To specify the taxonomical position and to clarify the problem of high endemism of the bryophyte flora of Russian Far East, A.L. together with I.I. revised the pleurocarpous mosses described by Czech bryologist J. Podpera and studied critically specimens of *Thuidiaceae* и *Leskeaceae* collected by A.S. Lazarenko in the Russian Far East, as well as collections of brothers Krause from Chukotka Peninsula. The contribution of A.L. to moss taxonomy was highly appreciated by foreign bryologists, and she was elected into the Committee on moss taxonomy at XII International Botanical Congress (1975).

A.L. together with I.I. contributed greatly to the study of fossil mosses. Their high experience and extensive knowledge were used also in the survey of bryophytes written for the multi-volume edition "The plant life" where all the latest achievements of bryology at that time had been considered.

A.L. spent a lot of energy and time on herbarium collections of the Botanical Institute. She participated in the publication of several issues of "Hepaticae et Musci URSS exsiccati" and in the collection exchange with the leading world Herbaria. Many bryologists from the whole U.S.S.R. who visited the Botanical Institute received from her consultations on bryophytes.

After retirement A.L. continued to work actively, and right after the death of I.I. Abramov (1990) she accomplished the work with "Handbook of mosses of Karelia" (1998) started by L.A. Volkova and I.I. Abramov.

The whole life of Anastasija Lavrentievna was devoted to scientific work, and this is an example of self-sacrificing service to science. Bright memories of Anastasija Lavrentievna will always remain in our hearts.

The detailed biography of Anastasija Lavrentievna Abramova and the list of her papers and books were published to her 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Afonina, O.M. & L.I. Abramova 2005. *Bot. Zhurn.* **90**(12): 1929-1939).