
MARINE BIOLOGISTS

Galina Benitsianovna Zevina

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Galina Benitsianovna Zevina is a leader in Russia and a worldwide recognized specialist in marine fouling and in the taxonomy of cirripede crustaceans, the dominating group in the community of fouling. This year, she celebrated her 75th birthday.

Zevina was born in Moscow in 1926. She has spent all her life in Moscow, leaving the city only for numerous expeditions, sometimes rather long-term. In 1949, she graduated from the Moscow State University (the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Faculty of Biology). She worked in the State Oceanographic Institute, Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, and Institute of Oceanology of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In the early years of her scientific activity, Zevina had excellent scientific supervisors and she was especially thankful to L.A. Zenkevich and N.I. Tarasov. For thirty-three years (from 1965 until 1998), she worked in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology of the Moscow State University, where she ran scientific investigations, gave lectures, and gave students practical training.

After graduating from university, Zevina's scientific interests were primarily concentrated on marine fouling and cirripede crustaceans. She worked as a hydrobiologist, studying the ecology of fouling in different

water bodies, and as a zoologist-taxonomist, studying the systematics of cirripedes collected throughout the world.

In the 1950–1960s, Zevina was involved with the problems of the fouling of vessels and hydraulic structures in the Barents, White, Caspian, Black, and Azov seas. In the early period, she published papers on mollusks, polychaetes, bryozoans, and some other marine organisms involved in fouling. About 20 papers deal with fouling in the Caspian Sea, the role of shipping and species-intruders in the development of the fauna of the Caspian Sea. As a result of these studies, she prepared a Ph.D. Dissertation “Obrastaniya sudov i gidrotekhnicheskikh sooruzhenii na Kaspiiskom more” (Fouling of Vessels and Hydraulic Structures in the Caspian Sea), which she defended in 1958. At the same time, in 1957, she published in the series “Fauna SSSR” (Fauna of the USSR), in co-authorship with Tarasov, the identification keys “Usonogie raki morei SSSR” (Cirripede Crustaceans of USSR Seas). Being a kind of rarity, the book still remains the most complete Russian survey on this group of crustaceans.

In the 1960s, she published papers on cirripede crustaceans of the North Ocean and Antarctic; in the 1970s, on cirripedes from the Far-Eastern seas.

Using materials collected in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, including deep-sea samples, Zevina prepared two volumes of a treatise and identification keys on cirripede barnacles of the suborder Lepodomorpha (1981, 1982).

In 1984, concluding the results of a 30-year-long investigation, Zevina defended her Doctor of Science dissertation “Usonogie raki otryada Thoracica i ikh znachenie v tsenoze obrastaniya” (Cirripede Barnacles of the Order Thoracica and Their Role in the Biocenosis of Fouling). The author there elaborated an original system of the order Thoracica and analyzed the evolution pathways and history of development of the fauna of cirripede crustaceans. She also discussed the ecological patterns and vertical and horizontal distribution of this group. Her dissertation concluded data on cirripede crustaceans of the seas of the USSR and characterized their role in fouling communities. The results of studies on fouling were also presented by Zevina in the monographs “Obrastaniya v moryakh SSSR” (Fouling in the Seas of the USSR) (1972) and “Biologiya morskogo obrastaniya” (Biology of Marine Fouling) (1994) and numerous papers.

Zevina also wrote papers dealing with the methods of fouling control: a method of assessment of the effectiveness of antifouling coatings, submarine cleaning of vessels, and the use of repellents to protect against fouling. She was among the first scientists to consider fouling to be not only a negative phenomenon but also a peculiar community of marine animals exceeding the benthos communities in species diversity.

Zevina is a true marine biologist. Despite the severities of traveling, she participated on par with men in many expeditions (some of them organized by herself) to the Caspian, Azov, Black, White, and Baltic seas and the Sea of Japan and also took part in scientific expeditions to the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. She visited Vietnam many times. The result of these expeditions was a joint monograph with A.Yu Zvyagintsev and C.E. Negashev "Usonogie raki poberezh'ya V'etnama i ikh rol' v obrastanii" (Cirripede Crustaceans of the Coast of Vietnam and Their Role in Fouling) (1982).

Over a period of 52 years of scientific activity, Zevina published more than 150 papers, including 7 monographs. Being a high grade specialist, Zevina is a kind-hearted and intellectual person, a very nice and charming woman, deserving of love and respect from her colleagues and students.

Now Zevina has retired, but she still continues working on her lovely cirripedes. In 1999–2000, she published reviews on cirripede crustaceans of the Black, Barents, and Kara seas and the Indian Ocean. She is still working on the system of a poorly studied group of cirripedes, the suborder Verrucomorpha.

About 70 term student papers and M.Sci. dissertations and 10 Ph.D. dissertations have been prepared under Zevina's supervision. Dozens of Zevina's former students now work in the scientific institutes of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sevastopol, and Vladivostok. On Zevina's initiative, a Group of Fouling was organized in 1971 in the Institute of Marine Biology. The group was first headed by her postgraduate student, A.N. Gorin. From 1975 until 1991, Zevina was a Member of the Editorial Council of the journal *Biologiya Morya* and she still remains a referee for the journal. Zevina has her own scientific school, although not officially documented, and I take great pleasure in referring to myself as one of her followers.

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