NOTES AND NEWS

RODION RODIONOVICH MAKAROV
(1937-1994)

BY

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Recently, carcinologists and marine biologists all over the world received the shocking news that Dr. Rodion R. Makarov was murdered in Moscow on 12 August 1994. This obituary is a small tribute to the person who for many years projected an image of Russian carcinology and Antarctic marine biology to the world.

R. R. (as he was called commonly by his colleagues and students) was born on 22 December 1937 in Moscow to an artistic family. (His surname, Makarov is one of the common family names in Russia, and Rodion was not related to other Makaros working in carcinology, in particular, to Vladimir V. Makarov from St. Petersburg/Leningrad and Yuriy N. Makarov from Odessa.) His interests in zoology and marine biology were determined early, but Rodion did not enter the university immediately after school. At first, he decided to try himself in technical work related to fisheries and marine research. For this he spent almost 4 years, first as a pond worker in a fish farm in Moscow, and then as a technician (laboratory assistant) in the Polar Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography in Murmansk (1956-1959) witnessing the famous "herring boom" in the Soviet fishery.

In 1959-1964, R. R. studied at the Moscow Lomonosov State University specializing in zoology and comparative anatomy of invertebrate animals, a program headed at that time by Prof. L. A. Zenkevitch and Prof. Jakov A. Birstein, the well-known Soviet carcinologist. Rodion's lifetime interests in larval biology of crustaceans and other marine invertebrates were, no doubt, inspired by Prof. Jakov Birstein. As a student, he participated in several research cruises in the Sea of Okhotsk, which were part of the king crab programme organized by Prof. Lev G. Vinogradov of the Pacific Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography, Vladivostok. The materials collected during this field work became the base of
Rodion's diploma study and in addition for his Ph.D. work towards a dissertation on the larvae of decapod crustaceans of the Kamchatka shelf (defended in 1968). This study was published in 1966 as a monograph and translated into English in 1969. However, this first of Makarov's monographs was also the last. R. R. always looked with criticism at this first book and never thought that the other subjects that he worked on constituted enough work to be elaborated into a monograph.

After graduating from the university, R. R. participated in the first Antarctic cruise of the R/V "Akademik Knipovich" of the All-Union Institute for Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, VNIRO (1964-1965) and after that time his career was tightly connected with Antarctic research. After that cruise, he became a junior, and later a senior scientist at the Laboratory of Hydrobiology and Commercial Invertebrates of VNIRO headed by Prof. Lev Vinogradov. The period from 1965 to 1980, which he spent in this laboratory, was, probably, the most productive for R. R. He took part in 7 expeditions of R/V "Akademik Knipovich" to the Antarctic and south-eastern Pacific, studying larvae, life cycles, and reproductive biology of Antarctic euphausiids, initially Euphausia superba Dana, 1852, and decapods. He also examined taxonomically rich collections of Stomatopoda brought from Vietnam and the Indian Ocean, and he conducted research in comparative morphology of crustaceans.

In 1980, R. R. became head of the section for Antarctic krill research in the Laboratory of Antarctic Living Resources of VNIRO. Since that time, he was concerned with a variety of administrative responsibilities. He spent a lot of energy organizing and obtaining permission for the publication of the results of studies on Antarctic krill biology, which was most difficult because of the restrictions established in the Soviet Union in 1972. (The scientific information on Antarctic krill was considered to be a national commercial secret until 1989 and the permission for publication of papers on krill biology required a complicated bureaucratic procedure.) Working for 12 (and sometimes even more) hours per day, he was able to continue his studies on the biology and distribution of Antarctic euphausiids. The scope of R. R.'s interests had extended to the study of life cycles and ecology of the Antarctic calanoid copepods and the biological seasonality in the Antarctic pelagic communities. In his last marine expeditions to the Antarctic (i.e., with the R/V "Professor Viese" in 1988 and the R/V "Polarstern" in 1989), he studied mainly distribution and ecology of copepods. R. R. was completing this work as a guest scientist at the Alfred Wegener Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven in 1993-1994, during his first and, unfortunately, his last research fellowship outside the Soviet Union and Russia. In the 1980-1990s, he used his very limited spare time to continue with investi-