

Francesco M. Raimondo

Vadim Nikolayevich Tikhomirov (1932-1998)



On 11th July 1998, Prof. Vadim Nikolayevich Tikhomirov passed away.

When *Flora Mediterranea* was at its early stage I was first in touch with V. N. Tikhomirov, then professor of Botany at the Lomonosov University of Moscow and Member of the USSR Academy of Science. I immediately appreciated his scientific and human qualities and invited him to take part into the Editorial Board of the newborn journal.

Through several meetings and frequent correspondence we had the opportunity to better our relationship, exchanging our scientific experience especially on the systematics and chorology of Umbellifers, one of his main field of interest.

Some years later I met him again in Helsinki on August 1997 on occasion of the VIII Meeting of the Committee for Mapping the Flora of Europe devoted to the "Chorological problems in the European Flora".

He was very friendly, as usual, and it was impossible to forecast his sudden death at the age of 66.

Probably it was one of his last participations in an international meeting where he presented a lecture on "Regional problems in plant chorology of European Russia".

The whole editorial staff of *Flora Mediterranea* will miss Prof. Tikhomirov.

With the aim of commemorating such an eminent scientist and to make the man and his works known to the scientific community, a brief biography is here presented.

Vadim Nikolayevich Tikhomirov was born in Moscow on 27th January 1932. From 1949 to 1954 he attended the Biological Soil Faculty of the Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov".

Till 1959 he was also assistant course of Vascular Plants at the same University and discussed his PhD Thesis on "Comparative morphology of gynecy and fruit in the Umbellifers".

In 1968 he became Associate Professor at the Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov", in 1976 Chief of the Department of Vascular Plants and in 1980 Elected Professor in the same Department. From 1966 to 1980 he was elected Regional Consular of Flora Europaea.

V. N. Tikhomirov was also Director of the Botanical Garden of Moscow (1967-1988), Council and Presidium Member of the Botanical Community of the Common Union (1969), Vice President of the Botanical Community of the Common Union (1988) and Regional Consular of the Atlas Florae Europaeae (1974).

He was also included in the Editorial Board of the "Scientific Reports of the Higher School. Biological Sciences" (1978), the "Botanical Journal" (1979), "Vegetatio" (1990) and Flora Mediterranea (1991) and member of the Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov" Scientific Council (1976), member of the Russian Society of Nature Protection (1980) and member of the SSSR Academy of Sciences (1987).

In 1990 he was awarded with the medal in the honour of S. G. Navashin for contributions in the development of Plant Embryology.

As a scientist he had many fields of interest and was mainly involved in studies on Plant Morphology, Systematics, Floristics and Nature Protection.

He started with research on carpology, ontogenesis, teratology and comparative morphology of the flower and fruit mainly in *Apiaceae*.

One of the main results of Tikhomirov's studies in this field is a descriptive and evolutionary treatment of *Apiaceae* involving morphology, anatomy and fruit types as well, these latter being considered as the final results of the ovary ripeness.

He continued his research with several systematic studies on the genera *Hydrocotyle* and *Centella*, as relationships between families *Araliaceae* and *Apiaceae*.

He carried out many investigations on the genera *Angelica*, *Psammogeton*, *Ligusticum*, *Pimpinella*, *Albovia*, etc. and described the new genera *Paraligusticum*, *Macrosciadium*, *Bilacunaria* and *Kadenia*.

In collaboration with other botanists he did taxonomically revisions of the genera *Aulacospermum*, *Elaeosticata*, *Bunium*, *Prangos* and *Cnidium*.

V. N. Tikhomirov treated the family *Apiaceae* in several Flora issues such as Flora of the northeastern part of the European USSR (1977), Arctic Flora USSR (1980), Guidebook of the Moscow County plants (1966), Guidebook of the Bashkir AUSSR plants (1989), Guidebook of the Mastera plants (1987).

On the basis of large collection material including original specimens from the South Hemisphere he clarified the phylogeny of *Apiaceae* from *Araliaceae* and created the so called "sciadographic school" in his Doctor of Sciences Thesis.

He supervised and took part in works on *Saxifragales* s.l. and *Centrospermae*. He sustained the concept for the irregularity of the evolutionary process and the origin of vascular plants directly to differentiation of *Palaeoangiospermae* and further evolution of flowering plants.

Finally he worked on genus *Alchemilla* and has described 5 new species.

In the floristic field of investigation he took part in many expeditions in Caucasus, Kazakhstan, Biellaruss, Moldova, Uzbekestan, Krim, Western Siberia and Kamchatka. His main floristic contributions are connected to Central Russia – Guidebook of the Moscow County plants (1966), Concept of the Resanska Mashtera Flora (1975), Guidebook of the Mastera plants (1987) as well as many local floras.

The species *Angelica tichomirovii* V. Vinogradova, and *Papaver tichomirovii* Mischeev were named after him.

He was very interested in herbarium collections and many of the specimens that he collected were deposited in the herbaria of the most important works institutions. More than 50000 exsiccata were directly collected by him.

Parallel to his scientific work he actively took part in the process of nature protection and conservation. V. G. Tichomirov participated in both legal and real nature protections. Together with E. M. Lavrenko and A. L. Tachtajan he creates for the first time a Red List of the Vascular Plants of USSR, followed by a Red Data Book written by him together with R. V. Kamelin.

V. N. Tikhomirov represented the USSR at many International Environmental Protection Forums – Portugal 1989, Swiss 1990, France 1991 etc.

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By D. Sokoloff

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