

## OBITUARY

GEORGII VASIL'EVICH LAZUR'EVSKII (1906-1987)



The well-known scientist in the field of the chemistry of natural compounds and bioorganic chemistry, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR, member of the CPSU since 1940, Honored Scientist of the MSSR, Doctor of Chemical Sciences, Professor Georgii Vasil'evich Lazur'evskii died on September 20, 1987.

G. V. Lazur'evskii was born on May 6, 1906 in Tashkent. In 1931 he graduated from the chemical faculty of the Central Asian State University (SAGU) and became a post-graduate student in the department of organic chemistry. After this he worked as assistant in the department and carried out investigations on the plants of Central Asia for the presence of alkaloids, essential oils, tanning agents, saponins, etc., in them. He studied in detail the alkaloids of a number of species of Leguminosae, Colchicum, Fritillaria, Convolvulaceae, and Anabasis.

Vasil'evich worked as probationer in a number of the leading scientific centers of the country, in the laboratories of Professors I. L. Knun'yants (Moscow State University, 1934), A. P. Orekhov (All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, 1935), and G. V. Pigulevskii (Botanical Institute, 1936).

In 1938, Georgii Vasil'evich defended his Candidate's dissertation on Convolvulaceae alkaloids, and in 1953 his doctoral dissertation, in which he generalized the results of investigations of complex pigments (sophoreols) isolated from plants of the Leguminosae family.

From 1939, Lazur'evskii was deputy rector for educational-scientific work at Samarkand State University, and in 1941 he became rector. In 1942, Lazur'evskii took part in the creation in Tashkent of an enterprise where the drugs, insecticides, and field laboratories required at the front were manufactured. In 1943, he was appointed assessor to the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR on questions of chemistry. In 1944, he returned to SAGU, continued his war-interrupted investigations, and carried out great pedagogic and organizational work in the post of dean of the chemical faculty, and then that of prorector.

In 1953, Lazur'evskii moved to Moldavia, where he was dean of the chemical faculty in Kishinev State University and headed the department of organic chemistry. Under his direction here, investigations were begun of alkaloids, terpenoids, tanning agents, and pentosans isolated from local plants and the wastes from the processing of agricultural raw material.

In 1956-1961, Lazur'evskii worked as vice-president of the Moldavian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and took an active part in the organization and establishment of academic science in Moldavia. He was one of the organizers of the Institute of Chemistry,

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Institute of Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR. Translated from *Khimiya Prirodykh Soedinenii*, No. 1, pp. 146-147, January-February, 1988.

Academy of Sciences of the MSSR (1959) and was its director in 1961-1965. With the formation of the Academy of Sciences of the MSSR in 1961, he was elected a full member of it, and then main scientific secretary of the presidium (1965-1970) and vice-president (1970-1972).

Georgii Vasil'evich Lazur'evskii was a pioneering investigator in the fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry in Moldavia. The work of the scientific school that he created is well known both in our country and abroad. Under his direction investigations were made of alkaloids, terpenoids, triterpene and steroid glycosides, cannabinoids, phytoalexins, etc. He made a weighty contribution to the development of the chemistry of natural compounds. He was the author of more than 250 papers and of six monographs and textbooks. Lazur'evskii did much in the training of specialists. Ten doctoral and more than 40 candidate's dissertations were written under his supervision.

Lazur'evskii was a veteran of the CPSU. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Moldavian SSR and secretary of the Party Committee of the Academy of Sciences of the MSSR.

The many-faceted scientific-pedagogic, party, and social activity of G. V. Lazur'evskii was highly regarded by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. He was awarded two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor, the "Badge of Honor" order, and medals. His name was entered in the Golden Book of Honor of the Moldavian SSR, and he was granted the title of "Honored Scientific Worker of the MSSR."

A prominent scientist, a talented organizer of science, and an excellent human being has departed this life. The bright memory of Georgii Vasil'evich Lazur'evskii, communist and toiler who devoted his life to the service of Soviet science, will ever remain in our hearts.