

VICTOR SERGEEVICH IVLEV

August 6, 1907 – December 4, 1964

OBITUARY NOTICE

The untimely death of Victor Sergeevich Ivlev is a serious loss to the relatively small, though rapidly increasing, ranks of mathematical biologists. He was much better known as an experimental ecologist. He used, however, a mathematical approach in several of his papers, and his last major contribution, the book *Experimental Ecology of the Feeding of Fishes* is a brilliant blend of mathematical and experimental approaches. That book has been translated into English and published by the Yale University Press (1961).

Though the title seems to emphasize the experimental aspects of the problem, yet the book is thoroughly permeated with the spirit of mathematical biology and stresses everywhere the need for a parallel development of theory and experiment. The mathematics used by V. S. Ivlev is rather elementary and does not compare to the kind used in some of the mathematically sophisticated works in our field. But whenever Ivlev deals with even relatively simple mathematics, the mathematical biologist finds suggestions and inspiration for a more thorough analysis. His works show everywhere the understanding of the true essence of mathematical biology.

It was my good fortune to have established academic contact with V. S. Ivlev when the latter sent me a copy of his book, which otherwise might have escaped my attention. The book inspired me toward an elaboration of some of the theoretical concepts of Ivlev. We met for the first time in May, 1964 at the occasion of a series of lectures which I delivered at the Leningrad State University. I was impressed by Ivlev's wealth of ideas, his enthusiasm, and his charming personality. Further developments of mathematical and experimental studies were started by him, to be, unfortunately, so suddenly stopped.

Victor Sergeevich Ivlev was born August 6, 1907 in Tambov and entered the University of Moscow in 1926. After graduation he worked in a number of institutes connected with fisheries research. A large part of his researches

dealt with energetic aspects of ecology, especially of nutrition. In this work he combined the experimental and theoretical mathematical approaches. During the last five years of his life V. S. Ivlev worked at the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., where he was Head of the Division of Physiology of Aquatic Animals.

In addition to his research, V. S. Ivlev devoted a great deal of his time to teaching. He taught at the Moscow Technical Institute for Fisheries, the University of Kiev, and the University of Lvov.

He was the author of several books and of over 130 scientific papers, one of which was published in this journal.

He died in his sleep in the early hours of December 4, 1964 from an infarct.

N. Rashevsky