
OBITUARY

**In Memory of Nina Vasil'evna Akimova
February 20, 1941–February 18, 2007**

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On February 18, 2007, Nina Vasil'evna Akimova, one of the veterans of the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, passed away.

Nina Vasil'evna Akimova (Kostikova) was born on February 20, 1941, into a family of office workers. After graduating from middle school in 1958, she began her working career as a laboratory assistant at the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fishery and Oceanography (VNIRO). In 1960, she entered the Biological and Soil Science Faculty at Moscow State Uni-

versity from which she graduated in 1965 (the department of ichthyology headed at that time by the corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Georgii Vasil'evich Nikolsky).

From 1965 to 1967, Akimova worked as research probationer in the Laboratory of Vertebrate Embryology at Severtsov Institute of Animal Morphology, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In this period, she mastered scuba diving and in 1967, under the supervision of D.V. Radakov, participated in studying fish

behavior during trawling, which required great courage and self-control from the researcher.

From 1971 to 1974, Akimova improved her professional skill as a postgraduate student at the Institute of Animal Morphology, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, under the guidance of Boris Viktorovich Koshelev and in 1985 defended her candidate's dissertation "Gametogenesis and Reproduction of Siberian Sturgeon" (in ichthyology, embryology, and histology). During these studies, she collected materials in expeditions in the Lena and Aldan rivers under the severe conditions of Yakutia. Akimova learned the methods of histological studies of gametogenesis of acipenserids to treat the material. Her studies on the development and functioning of the reproductive system of Siberian sturgeon in nature and while its cultivation in warm water served as the basis for elaborating the biotechnics of creating brood stocks of this species, on which the aquaculture of acipenserids is currently mainly based all over the world.

The scientific interests of Akimova included specific features of oogenesis, not only in sturgeon, but also of the nine-spined stickleback, ruffe, and several species of coregonids. She devoted much attention to the anthropogenic influence on the reproduction of fish, especially of sturgeon. The results of these studies were widely acknowledged in Russia and abroad. Akimova had published more than 130 papers.

Akimova was a very active, benevolent person who was always ready to delicately render aid and moral support to all that needed them. At the same time, she was an extraordinarily firm person. Even in the difficult period of disease, she continued to retain working capacity, self-control, and optimism.

We have lost a remarkable worker and a clever and kind friend, and her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren lost a loving, delicate instructor who was always preoccupied with their fates.

V. S. Malyutin,
K. I. Moskal'kova,
M. P. Nikolskaya,
S. S. Rodionova,
G. I. Ruban,
G. V. Filatkina,
O. V. Khalatyan,
Zh. A. Chernyaev,
V. G. Shagaeva,
M. I. Shatunovskii

THE LIST OF MAIN SCIENTIFIC WORKS OF N.V. AKIMOVA

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Translated by I.A. Pogoyants