



### **Valery Korneyev at 70**

On 13 February 2026, the distinguished dipterist, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and President of the Ukrainian Entomological Society, celebrates his 70th birthday. This milestone coincides with thirty years of his service as the Scientific Editor of *Zoodiversity* (formerly *Vestnik Zoologii*), a period during which the journal has solidified its standing as a leading peer-reviewed outlet in Eastern Europe.

Born in 1956 in Zviahel (Ukraine), Valery Korneyev graduated from the Taras Shevchenko State University of Kyiv in 1978. Following a tenure at the University of Kyiv (1978–1985) and Institute of Biological Control for Plant Protection in Chişinău (1985–1989), he joined the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. During his tenure, he progressed from Research Scientist to Head of Department, contributing significantly to the Institute's scientific strategy. His research on the systematics, phylogeny, and evolution of Diptera is internationally recognised. These studies, particularly on Tephritidae and other phytophagous flies, have influenced the modern classification of these groups. Through the application of integrative taxonomic approaches and support for the digitisation of collections and citizen science, he has helped bridge the gap between classical taxonomy and contemporary digital frameworks.

The evolution of *Zoodiversity* into an internationally recognised journal reflects the shared achievements of its editorial board, to which his long-standing commitment has been a significant contribution. Since joining the team in 1996, he has been a notable part of the collective effort to navigate the complexities of scientific publishing and maintain rigorous academic standards. This attention to detail and emphasis on scientific integrity have also supported the journal's role in mentoring generations of authors and reviewers.

The Editorial Board, colleagues, and the global entomological community extend their warmest congratulations to Valery Korneyev. We mark this 70th anniversary by recognising his devotion to the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of scientific literature.