



Stella Vladimirovna Vassilenko (1936–2011): in memoriam

VICTOR V. PETRYASHOV¹, MIKHAIL E. DANELIYA² & ALEXEY V. CHERNYSHEV³

¹Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya naberezhnaya, 1, 199034, St.-Petersburg, Russia.
E-mail: malacostraca@zin.ru

²Finnish Museum of Natural History, POB 17, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. E-mail: mikhail.daneliya@helsinki.fi.

³A. V. Zhirmunsky Institute of Marine Biology of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 690041, Vladivostok, Russia. E-mail: tsher@bio.dvgu.ru.

Stella Vladimirovna Vassilenko—Russian zoologist, carcinologist, biogeographer, prominent specialist in amphipods, particularly skeleton shrimps (Caprellida), hooded shrimps (Cumacea) and crabs (Decapoda: Brachyura) of cold and moderate waters of the World Ocean; author and co-author of 6 families and subfamilies, several genera and many crustacean species.



Stella was born and stayed for all her life in Leningrad (currently Saint-Petersburg). In her hard childhood she had to experience the Leningrad blockade during World War II and managed to survive. After graduating from the Leningrad University (currently the Saint-Petersburg State University) she got a position of technician at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ZIN), in Leningrad. However, Stella wanted to become an algologist and continue studies in the Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (BIN), in Leningrad. Unfortunately, or fortunately, at that time there was no postgraduate position in BIN, and she was invited for Candidate of Sciences (=Ph.D.) student position in ZIN, where she had to study caprellid crustaceans that live on algae and her algological knowledge could still be useful.

Thus, Stella became a zoologist, though she kept her good knowledge of algae for all of her life. She even published an early paper on marine algae of the Russian Far East (Vassilenko 1961) and subsequently indentified them to species level when studying caprellid habitat (Vassilenko 2006).