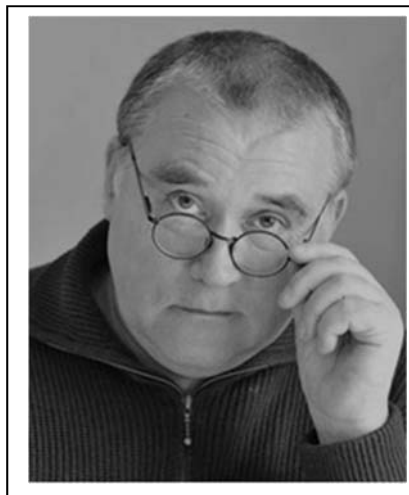




# ПЕРСОНАЛІЇ

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## IN MEMORIAM YEVGEN PYSANETS (1949–2016)

Irretrievable loss incurred the biological science, museology and education in Ukraine. On 15 October 2016, at age 67, suddenly died the famous zoologist, teacher, museum activist, founder and first president of the Ukrainian Herpetological Society, head of the Zoological Department at the National Museum of Natural History, NAS of Ukraine, doctor of biological sciences, professor

Yevgen Maksymovych Pysanets. Since 1999, he had been leading of the Zoological Department for seventeen years.

Yevgen Maksymovych was born on 22 August 1949 in Viacheslavka village (Primorsky district, Zaporizhzhia region) to the agronomist Maksym Maksymovych and his wife Lidiia Romanivna. After his school years (1958–1966), he was studying in a machine-building technical school where he was graduated from in 1968. In 1968–1973, he was a student at the Department of Geography and Biology of Melitopol State Pedagogical Institute (now Bohdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University). He successfully graduated in 1973 and became an assistant at the Department of Zoology. In 1976, he started his postgraduate studies at I. I. Shmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine (Kyiv), in the Department of Vertebrates Systematics, and at the Zoological Museum chaired by Mykola Shcherbak, who became his scientific advisor.

Yevgen Pysanets devoted his PhD thesis to the taxonomy and geographical variability of toads of the USSR. During the postgraduate

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studies, Yevgen Maksymovych took part in numerous expeditions across Ukraine, the Far East, and countries of Central Asia. Successfully completing the postgraduate studies and defending his PhD thesis, Yevgen Maksymovych returned to Melitopol Pedagogical Institute, where he became a lecturer in zoology, evolution theory, and genetics. He proceeded his research on karyology and hybridization of amphibians, their variability and taxonomy. In 1979–1980 he worked as an assistant of the Department of Zoology. In 1980, he was appointed as an associate professor of the same department. Since 1981, he had been a Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Geographical Sciences of Melitopol State Pedagogical Institute and simultaneously associate professor of the Department of Biology and Nature Conservation.

In 1989–1992, Yevgen Pysanets was a postdoctoral researcher at I. I. Shmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine, where he continued his research in the field of variability and taxonomy of Eurasian toads. During these years, he prepared and successfully defended his DSc thesis “*Toads of the Palearctic (variability, taxonomy, and significance of polyploidy in the evolution of the genus Bufo)*”. After earning the Doctor of Biological Sciences degree, in 1995 he was appointed head of the general Herpetological Laboratory at Melitopol Pedagogical Institute.

In 1997, Yevgen Maksymovych established the Research Institute of Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems of Ukraine at Melitopol Pedagogical University, becoming its director, and head of the institute’s Department of Herpetology and the Zoological Museum. At the same time, he was teaching genetics in Melitopol State Pedagogical University.

After M. Shcherbak’s death, Yevgen Pysanets in 1999 was appointed as a head of the Zoological Department at the National Museum of Natural History, NAS of Ukraine. He moved to Kyiv and started to work actively on the development of the museum, enrichment of its exhibitions, preservation stock collections, creation collection databases, and publishing catalogues of collections. Two editions of guidebooks on the Zoological Museum were published under his editorship (2005, 2009). In 2005, he resumed publishing the “*Proceedings of the Zoological Museum*” scientific journal, becoming its editor-in-chief. In the same year, Yevgen Maksymovych established the Ukrainian Herpetological Society, became its first president, and the editor-in-chief of the society’s journal “*Proceedings of the Ukrainian Herpetological Society*”. At this time, zoological field studies conducted by young researchers and postgraduate students of the Zoological Museum under Yevgen Maksymovich’s guidance covered the territory of Ukraine and another countries of Eastern Europe (Romania, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary).

Yevgen Maksymovych also traveled a lot, in particular to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador and Peru (2006), following Charles Darwin’s rout on the Beagle. He also visited Nepal, India, and China (Tibet, Lhasa) (2007). As the result he created the permanent photo exhibition “*The Galapagos Islands since Darwin to present days*” in the lobby of the Zoological Department at the National Museum of Natural History, NAS of Ukraine, also new exhibits of reptiles that enriched the museum’s exposition and stocks.

Yevgen Pysanets published more than 100 scientific, methodological, and popular science publications, including monographs “*Amphibians of the Red Data Book of Ukraine (reference book-cadastr)*” (2005) in co-authorship with S. Litvinchuk, F. Kurtiak and V. Radchenko, “*Amphibians of Ukraine (guide and key to amphibians of Ukraine and adjacent territories)*” (2007), “*Amphibians of Ukraine (2007), Amphibians of Eastern Europe. Part I. Caudata*” (2012), “*Amphibians of Eastern Europe. Part II. Anura*” (2014) and “*Amphibians of Crimea*” (2016). He also took an active part in writing the Red Data Book of Ukraine, where he is the author of several articles and

eight special essays for its last edition (2009).

Since 2006, Yevgen Pysanets had been teaching vertebrate zoology and genetics at the Department of Biology of the National University of Kyiv–Mohyla Academy. He was appointed as an Professor of the Department in 2008. Five PhD candidates (N. Suriadna, Yu. Karmyshev, V. Reminnyi, N. Smirnov, A. Roman) defended their theses under his leadership, while some of his PhD-students (O. Manuilova, A. Matvyeyev, O. Tkachenko, G. Myktynets) continue their scientific research on the topics he proposed.

Yevgen Pysanets had always been a man with a property that is rare nowadays, i.e. a clear prioritization of his life. The family was always an unconditional priority for him, just as his scientific work. He was not just a loving son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather, but very responsible to family members, a real head, and faithful and reliable in everything. He met his future wife Liudmyla Volodymyrivna during school years and they lived together for fifty years raising two daughters and a son. They have three grandchildren, and recently a great-granddaughter was born.

Yevgen Maksymovych had been working until his last days. Shortly before his death, after completing the work on another monograph, he carefully arranged his affairs, compiled a list of his publications, and had a conversation with the staff about the museum's future and issues of preservation of the collections and exhibitions. As a scientist, he left behind his scientific achievements, articles, books, as a teacher he left worthy students, and as a museologist he left valuable collections, expositions filled with new contributions, as well as new development ideas. As a remarkable, wise, dignified and loving person, he left behind a long good memory. We all, the employees of the Zoological Museum, NMNH NAS of Ukraine, share the grief of the members of Yevgen Maksymovich's family about the loss of this bright man and will always remember him, who has become an integral part of the history of the museum, with appreciation and kindness.