

Obituary

Yegor Borisovich Malashichev, Editor-in-Chief of *Biological Communications*, passed away on 15 December.

Yegor was an extraordinary man. The scope of his scientific interests was extremely wide and covered vertebrate morphology, evolutionary developmental biology, behavioural asymmetry and many other fields of biological research. Any scientific project that he carried out would culminate in an important and interesting discovery.

Yegor was always attentive to students and would actively involve them in the most interesting and advanced scientific research. At the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, St. Petersburg State University, where he was an associate professor, Yegor set up several state-of-the-art laboratories, supervised a multitude of scientific projects and created his own school of thought studying behavioural asymmetry in vertebrates. Every year, Yegor participated in teaching various courses at the Faculty of Biology, such as vertebrate zoology, summer practicum, herpetology and many others. Hundreds of students will remember him as a joyful teacher with a great sense of humour. Many Bachelor, Master and PhD theses written under his supervision were successfully defended. Yegor continued to look after his students for years and years after their graduation by encouraging them to work on new research projects and topics. This resulted in a great number of former students of all ages, from high school pupils to candidates of sciences, who will, undoubtedly, follow up the research that Yegor initiated.

In recent years, Yegor's main focus was the *Biological Communications* journal. Since 2014, he had been working constantly on its improvement, expansion and promotion. With his active involvement, the journal received its modern title (previously it was known as *Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Series 3. Biology*) and a new modern layout meeting the criteria of top-rated scientific magazines. Thanks to Yegor's efforts, *Biological Communications* has become a genuinely international magazine, which appeals to a broad scientific audience. Yegor was sincerely delighted to see every new issue of the journal with interesting articles in print and was deeply upset when something went wrong with the journal.

Yegor was a brilliant organizer; no difficulties could lead him astray. Organizing laboratory work, supervising several research topics at a time, writing scientific articles, drafting new grant applications, keeping projects accounting records, sitting on various boards and commissions, giving lectures and preparing an upcoming issue of the journal are just some of the things that Yegor managed to do. Nevertheless, you could always ask him for advice or help, and he would never refuse or complain that he was busy. Despite his overloaded schedule, he was always able to find some time to help organize an expedition for schoolchildren, give a popular science lecture, provide his colleagues with advice, meet his friends and take care of his family.

Yegor will be remembered as a very kind person, sympathetic to everybody around him. Upbeat, full of optimism, plans for the future and life, he accomplished a great deal of things. Yegor will be greatly missed by all of us.



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