**A BRIEF REPORT FROM THE XII INTERNATIONAL NEMATOLOGY SYMPOSIUM OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY OF NEMATOLOGISTS, NIZHNY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA, JULY 31 – AUGUST 6, 2017**

During July 31 – August 6, 2017, in the state N.I. Lobachevsky State University of Nizhny Novgorod has been successfully held the XII International Nematology Symposium entitled "Nematodes and other Ecdysozoa under the growing ecological footprint on ecosystems".

Researchers of several countries participated in the symposium: Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belgium, Bulgaria, U.S.A., Israel, Vietnam, South Africa, Great Britain, Italy. In total, 90 researchers and practical nematologists, among them 12 foreign participants presented results of their work. Fruitful contributions were done by young scientists, Master and PHD students

Symposium communications were presented in two languages: English and Russian, with obligatory English language for lecture slides and discussions. Scientific and practical achievements were grouped in the following sessions of the Symposium Program: “Nematode Communities and Their Role as Efficient Bioindicators of Ecosystem Changes”; “Modern Views on Origin and Phylogeny of Nematoda and Molting Pseudocoelomates”; “Structure of Nematodes and Molting Pseudocoelomates”; “Physiology and Biochemistry of Roundworms and Ecdysozoans”; “Host-Parasite Relations, Vectors, Infection Refugia”; “Invasive and Quarantine Species Control and Management of Nematodes”;

Plenary session included seven lectures on the most important areas of the Nematology. The characteristic feature of the sessions was the presentation of results of research combining approaches of several scientific fields: ecology and taxonomy, physics and biology; computer modelling and pathology, etc. Special attention was focused on the two scientific workshops in frames of the Symposium: “New Techniques to study Ecdysozoans” and “Ecological footprint: Ecdysozoa communities in natural and anthropogenic transformations of ecosystems". Round table style was dominated both in workshops and sessions thus stimulating discussions and positive criticism.

Conception of the ecological debt (footprint) and the bioindication using ecdysozoans, as well as the new technology tools were in focus of the Symposium discussions. In total the number of the symposium presentations reached seventy, their abstracts were included into the Symposium book.

The papers and discussions devoted to the principal problems of Nematology, had shown the actuality and good level of the fundamental research. The International Symposium contributed to maintain and develop of the traditions of scientific teams in Russia and friendly countries, enforcement of the scientific communications between scientists, selecting of the main priorities of the modern Nematology. Special attention was focused on the young researchers (scientists, master and PHD students) which presented oral and poster papers with new results, and had the opportunities to discuss their achievements with prominent Russian and foreign authorities of specific research fields.

Papers presented in Symposium sessions and workshops, will be published in the Russian Journal of Nematology and uploaded at the Symposium website (<https://www.zin.ru/conferences/2017_Ecdysozoa_en/index.html>).

Symposium discussions and post-symposium publications will contribute to the university zoology, ecology, and plant pathology courses, as well as in the textbooks and digital supplementary materials used in the Nematology Master and PHD qualification programs.

Symposium participants were impressed with the following features in the Symposium days: ecology accent of the majority of papers with evident perspectives to use bioindication results of environment disturbance in applied environment tests; prognostic models of epidemics and epiphytoties; mapping of nature refugia of parasitic nematode caused human and cattle diseases. Well organized work of the Nizhny Novgorod University Local OrgCommittee Symposium team created the friendly and optimistic atmosphere for participants thus stimulating the open-minded opinions’ exchange and helping in the thoroughly transmission of results and views of the nematode and ecdysozoan research of everybody.

According to the voting of the Russian Society of Nematologists, as the XIII RSN Symposium venue has been selected the Institute of Biology of the Karelian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IB KSC RAS), in Petrozavodsk city. According the RSN Constitution, Dr. PHD Elizaveta M. Matveeva (IB KSC RAS) was elected as the President of the RSN for 2017-2019.

After the Symposium dates, as its educational supplement, the Training Nematode Identification Courses for the practical workers of the Russian State Quaranitine Service (ROSSEL’KHOZNADZOR) has been held in the biological station “Pustyn’”of the N.I.Lobachevsky State University of Nizhny Novgorod during August 4-7, 2017.

Symposium Participants had also enjoyed the excursions in the old city center and Kremlin of Nizhny Novgorod, as well in the University Botanical Garden with its excellent live collections of orchids.