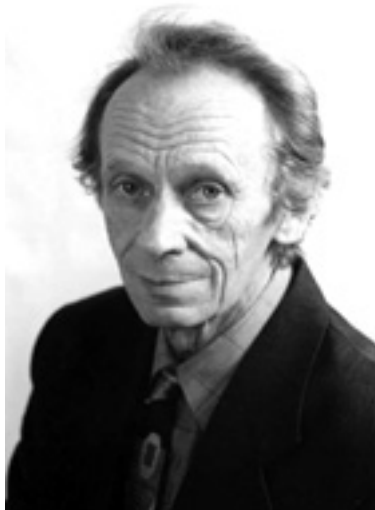


IN MEMORIAM



Anatolii Alekseevich POTEKHIN
(May 12, 1938 – March 27, 2007)

On March 27, 2007 after a prolonged serious disease Doctor of Chemical Sciences, Professor, head of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Faculty of St. Petersburg State University, distinguished worker at the Higher School of the Russian Federation, and member of the Editorial Board of the journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" Anatolii Alekseevich Potekhin passed away.

The heart of a remarkable person, talented teacher, and famous scientist, whose whole life had been associated with Saint Petersburg (Leningrad) University, stopped beating. Already far back in 1957, while a student of course 3, A. A. Potekhin entered the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Leningrad State University and began his scientific work under the guidance of Assistant Professor K. A. Ogloblin. From that time the Department of Organic Chemistry became like a second home for Anatolii Alekseevich. Student, post-graduate, assistant, Assistant Professor, Professor, and finally, from 1989, head of the Department and chairman of the Dissertation Council – this was a path of half a century involving enormous work, numerous appreciative students, and an extensive scientific legacy.

Anatolii Alekseevich was distinguished by a wide range of scientific interests. His graduate work, carried out under the guidance of K. A. Ogloblin and completed in 1964 with the presentation of a candidate's thesis, was devoted to the reaction of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds with nitrosyl chloride. In parallel with this he undertook some contract work under Prof. B. V. Ioffe, in which he investigated in detail the condensation of carbonyl compounds with β -hydroxyalkylhydrazines. The new unexpected results obtained here

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prompted A. A. Potekhin to switch to the study of the relationships governing the reversible and irreversible cyclization of functionally substituted hydrazines, hydrazides, and hydrazones. An integral component part of these investigations became the work on the synthesis, stereochemistry, and reactivity of saturated polynitrogen heterocycles, which are of independent interest. The reaction of thiiranes and aziridines with nitrogen nucleophiles was studied in detail in order to synthesize functionally substituted hydrazines. The outcome of this cycle of researches was the presentation by A. A. Potekhin in 1989 of a doctoral thesis on the subject of "The chemistry of functionally substituted hydrazines and hydrazones"

The logical extension of this theme became the researches connected with new approaches to the synthesis of nitrogen- and sulfur-containing nonaromatic heterocycles (condensed thiazolidines, 3-aminothietane derivatives, etc.). In recent years the synthesis and reactivity of aromatic heterocycles were also studied under the guidance of A. A. Potekhin.

A. A. Potekhin the author of more than 150 scientific papers, including a treatise on "The Chemistry of Organic Derivatives of Hydrazine". The reference book "The Properties of Organic Compounds" popular among organic chemists was published under the editorship of A. A. Potekhin. He was also Editor-in-Chief of the periodical collection "Contemporary Problems of Organic Chemistry". A. A. Potekhin also devoted much effort and time to translations of books on chemistry into Russian. He was translator or translation editor of numerous publications and in particular the well-known book "Complex Hydrides in Organic Chemistry" by A. Hajos.

Anatolii Alekseevich Potekhin has made an invaluable contribution to the establishment and development of the journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" and worked on its Editorial Board from the first issue of the journal to the last days of his life. For about two decades he largely determined the "strategy and tactics" of the scientific editing of the journal and held regular meetings of the scientific editors, achieving the publications of a high quality. All will remember his thoroughness, combining excellently with his gentle culture and profound tact, his broad scientific outlook, his enormous capacity for work.

The teaching activity of A. A. Potekhin merits special mention. For more than 40 years he conveyed his knowledge to hundreds of students, educated tens of highly qualified chemists, many of whom became candidates and doctors of science and are now working successfully throughout Russia and abroad. Always they have all spoken with enormous warmth about their Teacher, and for them his departure from life is a bitter and irreplaceable loss. A. A. Potekhin is remembered with gratitude by former pupils – participants in the chemistry Olympiads, in the organization of which Anatolii Alekseevich was engaged for many years.

For all who knew him A. A. Potekhin will always remain in the memory not only as a specialist of the highest professional skill but also as a person of great kindness, decency, and culture. Long may he be remembered!

P. S. Lobanov, V. V. Sokolov, and M. A. Kuznetsov

The Editorial Board and staff grieve over the decease of our permanent author and longstanding scientific editor prof. Anatolii Alekseevich Potekhin and express their condolences to his family, dear ones, and colleagues.