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## The 70th Birthday of Lev Vladimirovich Kalakutskii



In May 2002, Lev Vladimirovich Kalakutskii, head of the All-Russia Collection of Microorganisms (VKM) at the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms, doctor of biology, professor, and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, celebrated his 70th birthday.

Kalakutskii was born in Moscow. After graduating from the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science at Moscow State University in 1955, he began to work at the Institute of Microbiology of the USSR Academy of Sciences in the laboratory headed by N.A. Krasil'nikov, first as a laboratory assistant and subsequently as a junior researcher, a senior researcher, and head of the laboratory. In 1961, he received the degree of Candidate of Sciences, and in 1970, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Biology. Since 1976, he has worked at the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms. In 1987, Kalakutskii was elected to the USSR Academy of Sciences as a corresponding member. From 1972 to 1984, he combined his research activity

with teaching at the Moscow State University. In 1993, he began to lecture at Pushchino State University.

Kalakutskii works in the field of general microbiology, with particular interest in microbial diversity. His first studies dealt with the investigation of the process of iron reduction by soil microorganisms. For many years, the major subject of his research has been actinobacteria, in particular, their occurrence in nature, their natural variability, their interactions with other micro- and macroorganisms (primarily, plants and algae), the mechanisms of their survival in extreme environments, etc. These investigations led him to an understanding of how actinomycetes vary during their adaptation to natural environments. The investigations of Kalakutskii and his collaborators in this direction, in particular, the series of articles *The Adaptation of Actinomycetes to the Environment and Their Evolution* were recognized by the Winogradsky Prize.

The All-Russia Collection of Microorganisms (VKM), headed by Kalakutskii, is presently the largest collection of nonpathogenic microorganisms in Russia. Cultures from this collection are widely used in many research institutes. VKM closely collaborates with local and specialized collections. One of the results of this collaboration is *The General Catalogue of the Russian Collections of Nonpathogenic Microorganisms*, whose online version became available on the Internet this year. In addition to research programs, VKM staff members are engaged in advising services and teaching.

Kalakutskii is the author or coauthor of about 220 scientific publications, including a monograph and a number of topical chapters in books and manuals. As a recognized authority in the field of microbiology, he has been invited to participate in a number of national and international microbiological congresses and conferences. Kalakutskii is a member of several microbiological international committees and serves on five international and three national editorial boards. As vice president of the All-Union Microbiological Society, a member of the executive committee of the World Federation of Culture Collections, and president of the European Organization of Culture Collections, Kalakutskii has greatly contributed to the professional unity of microbiologists.

All members of the editorial board of *Mikrobiologiya* congratulate Lev Vladimirovich Kalakutskii with his 70th birthday and wish him health, long life, and further success in his scientific career.

**Editorial Board**