

УДК [167.1:930.2:001+62]:581.9



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**ACADEMICIAN OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USSR
YE. LAVRENKO'S (1900-1987) CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF
PLANT SCIENCE**

Summary

The aim of the research was to recreate the achievements of Academician Ye. Lavrenko (1900-1987) on the history of plant science and to analyze his works on this issue. The results of the study indicate that Ye. Lavrenko proved himself as a skilled historian of plant science that has remained unproved till today.

The first biographical article was written in 1928 and was dedicated to H. Tanfiliev, who, according to the author, was the founder of Russian geo-botany, and was compared to a scientist A. Krasnov. In this research they were critically analyzed H. Tanfiliev's articles. On the basis of the analysis of publications, Ye. Lavrenko concluded that working on biographies of scientists was contributed by his familiarity with a famous historian of botany S. Lipschitz, who in 1942 began his work on biography-bibliographic dictionary "Russian Botanists" on behalf of the leadership of the Moscow Society of Naturalists and the Botanical Institute named after V. Komarov. Ye. Lavrenko summarized the activities of biological science giants – M. Vavilov, V. Vernadskyi, V. Komarov, V. Sukachov, analyzed the most significant achievements of these scientists and the influence of their ideas on the further development of national and world science.

Among the biographical publications they are worth noting the articles devoted to Ye. Lavrenko's students who died prematurely. It should be noted that the researcher described in detail the activities of his followers and objectively assessed their achievements. He did not let the names of the contemporary scientists disappear over time. He published messages to anniversaries and obituaries on the deaths of employees of Botanical Institute named after V. Komarov.

It is proved that Ye. Lavrenko has priority in the compilation of the history of botanical science, its individual sectors, as well as the history of the functioning and achievements of individual botanical institutions and organizations. Important Ye. Lavrenko's historical works are dedicated to the history of the establishment and functioning of the Russian (later All-Union) Botanical Society. In 1987 the "Ukrainian Botanical Journal" published a valuable historical overview "Research of vegetation of Ukraine in the 20-s and early 30-s of this century" (there was described the territory of Ukraine within its borders before World War II), where Ye. Lavrenko as a direct participant of these investigations revealed the contribution of talented local scientists to solving this problem.

The scientists, using problem-chronological, concrete historical and comparative analysis revealed objectively the contribution of personalities, institutions and organizations to the development of science, made periodization of geo-botany history periods, the functioning of the All-Union Botanical Society, etc. They are analyzed the little-known facts about Ye. Lavrenko's activities in the history of plant science, as well as his works, which can be divided into groups: analyzing biographies and scientific activities of individual scientists (V. Sukachov, M. Vavilov, V. Dokuchaev B. Keller and others); publications on the history of botany; explorations of the history of botanical institutions functioning.

Key words: *Ye. Lavrenko, history of plant science, geo-botany, All-Union Botanical Society.*