

Obituary

DMITRY GROMYKO

(14.03.1957–15.11.2024)

We are sad to pass on the news of the death of Dmitry Gromyko on November 15, 2024.

Dmitry (Dima) Gromyko was one of the longest serving of the laboratory of Palaeobotany of the Komarov Botanical Institute RAS (BIN RAS), where he worked since 1980. The main scientific interests of Dmitry were related to the anatomy of fossil woods, mainly Cretaceous and Tertiary, and palaeoclimate. He published around 25 papers about palaeobotany (see below) and about scientists studying paleobotany, and has also contributed to two books: Fossil Flowering Plants of Russia and Adjacent Countries (Budantsev L.Yu. (ed.): 1994, vol. 3 and 2005, vol. 4).



Dmitry took part in numerous palaeobotanical expeditions to the Russian Far East, Abkhazia, Antarctica, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and curated a collection of fossil woods in BIN RAS. Dmitry always supported and helped students and postgraduates with practical advice in everything. His love of fossil wood inevitably meant he was a member of the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA). He was a participant in the international program for the study of the Neogene climates of Eurasia "Neclime".

As well as contributing directly to scientific research, Dmitry was also committed to supporting his colleagues through taking on administrative roles. From 2022, he worked as the head of the expert center in BIN RAS, in 2023 he became the director of the foundation "Botanical Garden of the 21st Century".

He was the ideologist and organizer of the creation of the unique complex paleobotanical exhibition “Paleo Garden”, which opened this summer in the Botanical Garden of BIN RAS in St. Petersburg. It includes sculptural reconstructions of plants from different geological periods, large-sized specimens of fossil woods, as well as living relict plants.

Dmitry was an erudite, kind and sympathetic person, always ready to help everyone. He was fun to be with and generous with his time to other researchers. In BIN RAS, everyone liked and respected him, sentiments that extended worldwide among his fellow palaeobotanists. Our palaeobotanical community will miss Dmitry Gromyko, but he will be remembered fondly.



Dmitry with fossil woods for “Paleo Garden”

List of the main publications of Dmitry Gromyko:

- Gromyko D.V.** 1982. Comparative anatomical study of the wood in the family Taxodiaceae. *Botan. Zh.* 67(7). 898-906.
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- Snigirevskaya N.S., **Gromyko D.V.**, 2000. Scanning electron microscopy as a key to the recognition of the cross-field types in fossil coniferous woods from Arctic. *Acta Palaeobot.* 40(1). 39-42.
- Philippe M., **Gromyko D.**, 2007. The putative Jurassic Angiosperm wood *Suevioxylon zonatum* revisited. *IAWA Journal* 28(1). 95-100.
- Ablaev A.G., Wang Yu-Fei, Zhilin S.G., Li Cheng-Sen, **Gromyko D.V.**, 2007. Discovery of the new species of *Pteroceltis* (Ulmaceae) from the Early Paleogene Wuyun flora, north-east CHINA. *Botan. Zh.* 92(7). 1066-1070.
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- Popova S., Utescher T., **Gromyko D.**, Bruch A. A., Mosbrugger V., 2017. Cenozoic vegetation gradients in the mid- and higher latitudes of Central Eurasia and climatic implications. *Palaeogeograph, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 467. 69-82.

- Popova S., Utescher T., **Gromyko D.**, Mosbrugger V., François L., 2019. Dynamics and evolution of Turgay-type vegetation in Western Siberia throughout the early Oligocene to earliest Miocene — a study based on diversity of plant functional types in the carpological record. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 99. 1–13.
- Ryazanov K.P., Tsybul'skaya A.E., Afonin M.A., **Gromyko D.V.**, 2020. New data on the Triassic Lestanshor formation (South-Western part of the Pay-Khoy ridge). *Bulletin of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences* 41(1). 35-42.
- Afonin M., **Gromyko D.**, 2021. First record of *Ginkgoxylon* (Ginkgoales) fossil wood in the Lower Cretaceous of the Arctic region. *Cretaceous Res.* 125. 104868.
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