



Kirill Glebovich Mikhailov: On the occasion of his 60th Birthday

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Kirill Glebovich Mikhailov was born on 29 July 1961 in Moscow, Russia. Both of his parents, Gleb K. Mikhailov (1929–2021) and Galina R. Mikhailova (1926–2019), were research scientists. Kirill’s father was an expert in the history of mechanics, and mother, a biologist. Since early childhood Kirill was raised mainly by his maternal grandparents, Roman P. Nosov and Antonina V. Nosova. Kirill’s grandfather, a CPSU official and a career administrator at the Ministry of Energetics, retired from his post in 1965 to take care of the grandson. Kirill’s grandmother, an obstetrician by profession, received disability at a military plant during the WWII in evacuation, and was a housewife after the war.

In 1978, Kirill began his studies at the Division of Biology (*Biologicheskii Fakul'tet*) of the Moscow State University (below, MSU). Even earlier, as a schoolboy, Kirill used to buy books on zoology, especially separate issues of the *Fauna of the USSR* and *Keys to the Fauna of the USSR*, then relatively cheap and available. It was then that he – as did many of us – obtained the famous *Key to Spiders of the European Part of the USSR* by Tyshchenko (1971). He looked through this book attentively, and remembered it.

At the start of his university years, Kirill was interested in various animal groups, among them molluscs and spiders.

It was the prominent MSU botanist Vadim Tikhomirov (1932–1998) who recommended him to choose spiders since at that time there were no spider experts in Moscow. Only later, Kirill met his older namesake and colleague Kirill Yu. Eskov who graduated from the same MSU in 1979.

As a result, already in his first year Kirill turned his attention to spiders. His interest was strongly reinforced when Kirill met Andrei B. Nenilin (1960–1986), a young and very sociable zoologist from Tashkent who was visiting the Zoological Museum of the MSU (below, ZMMU). It was, in fact, Nenilin who first introduced Kirill Mikhailov to the spider collections of the ZMMU. Kirill became a regular visitor to these collections, and since 1982 he got a permanent working place at the Invertebrate Department as it moved to Bolshaya Nikitskaya (then Herzen) Street, 6—the historical location where he would spend the next 40 years. In 2002, Kirill was assigned a separate room in the same Department, where he still works.

Kirill's attention was first turned to the spiders of Moscow Province, a subject of his student research paper in his fourth year, "Fauna and ecology of spiders of the Zvenigorod Biological Station, MSU". This work resulted in two publications in 1983 (Mikhailov 1983a, b), when Kirill was still a student.

Kirill Mikhailov's MSU diploma, "Fauna and ecology of spiders of the clay semidesert of the North-West Cis-Caspia" was based on his 1982 field work at the Dzhanybek Field Station (now Zhanybek, Kazakhstan, at the border with the Astrakhan Province of Russia). The field research there was supervised by the famous biogeographer Yuri I. Chernov. These results were partially published (Mikhailov 1985).

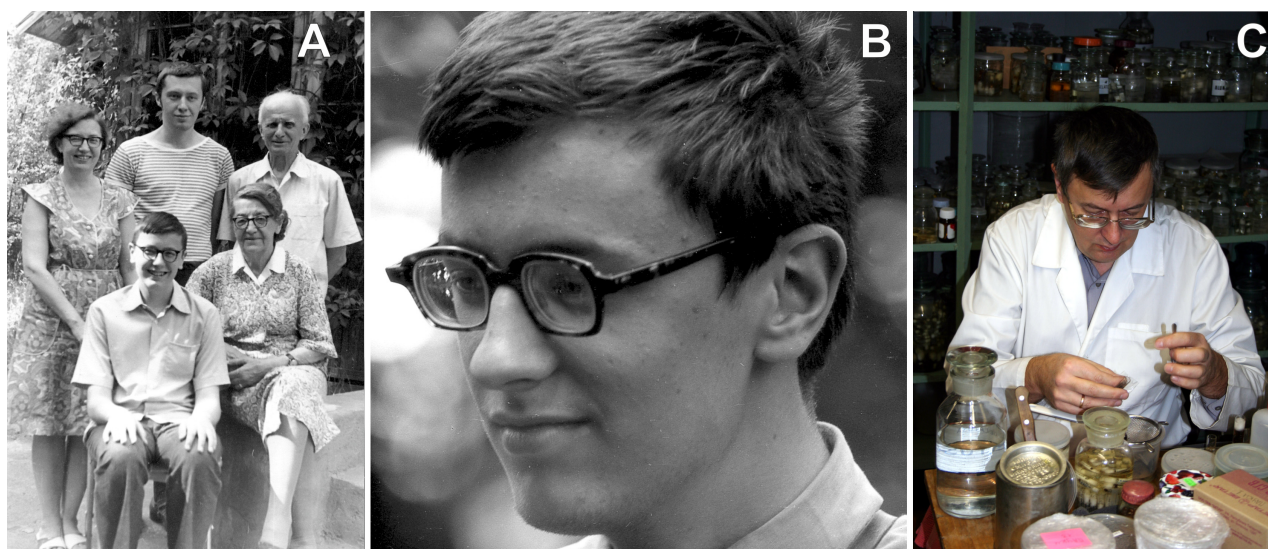


FIGURE 1. A, Kirill Mikhailov with his family (upper row: mother, brother, grandfather; seating: Kirill and grandmother); B, Kirill Mikhailov in 1980 during a field class; C, Kirill Mikhailov sorting spiders in his study, 2021.

Already in his student years Kirill chose a systematic group of spiders to which he is still true. These were: the genus *Clubiona* (*sensu lato*) (Clubionidae) and some other taxa formerly included in the family: *Orthobula*, *Trachelas* (now in Trachelidae) and *Micaria* (now in Gnaphosidae). Choice of these groups was suggested by Andrei Nenilin who became at this time a true informal coordinator of the arachnological research across the former USSR. Many successful arachnologists, including Kirill Mikhailov, owe their early professional development to the energy and vision of Andrei Nenilin who tragically died in Tashkent at the age of 26.

Kirill's research at the Entomology Department of the MSU was supervised by a brilliant teacher and prominent acarologist Adelaida D. Petrova-Nikitina. Kirill Mikhailov's first advisors in arachnology were Alexey A. Zyuzin (then of Leningrad) and Kirill Yu. Eskov (Moscow) who were the first to help in spider identification. A great help was also provided to Kirill, as to all of the Soviet arachnologists of that time, by Vladimir I. Ovtsharenko (then of the Zoological Institute, Leningrad, below, ZISP) who could access the best research library of the USSR, the BAN (the Library of the Academy of Sciences, Leningrad). Among other older colleagues who influenced Kirill's professional development were the famous arachnologist Alexander B. Lange, and entomologists Georgy Yu. Lyubarsky, Alexandr B. Ryvkin, and Vassily V. Belov.

After graduating from the MSU in 1983, Kirill began his work in the ZMMU, at the same time attending the graduate school. His first taxonomic revision (Mikhailov 1988) was devoted to the genus *Micaria* of the USSR. After that, he al-

most completely switched to the genus *Clubiona*, and in 1992 earned his PhD from the MSU; his dissertation was entitled “Systematics and fauna of the spider genus *Clubiona* Latreille, 1804 (Aranei, Clubionidae) in the USSR”.

At that time, in the 1980s-early 1990s, the arachnological research in the USSR centered in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) around Viktor P. Tyshchenko (Entomology Department, Leningrad State University; below, LSU) and Vladimir I. Ovtsharenko (who then became the curator of arachnological collections of the ZISP). Leningrad was visited by many Soviet arachnologists to work with their colleagues and study the ZISP collections. Among other arachnologists at that time in Leningrad were Alexey A. Zyuzin (All-Union Plant Protection Institute), Galina A. Sekirova and Sergey N. Danilov (ZISP postgraduate students); and undergraduate students (Tatyana V. Pavlenko in the Herzen Pedagogical Institute; Yuri M. Marusik and Dmitri V. Logunov in the LSU). Many regional arachnologists came to defend their dissertations in ZISP and LSU. The First All-Union Arachnological Conference took place also in Leningrad in 1984.

By the late 1980s, however, the arachnological research started shifting to Moscow. This was partially due to the untimely death of V.P. Tyshchenko in 1986, and departure of many arachnologists (A.A. Zyuzin moved to Alma-Ata). However, the main reason for this change was that already by the mid-1980s Kirill Mikhailov has completely revised the spider collections of the ZMMU. As a result, most domestic arachnologists began to deposit their types and other spider material in the ZMMU. In the words of K. Yu. Eskov, they “united their collection under that roof.”

Over the decades, the domestic and international arachnology—and biology in general—has highly benefited from Kirill Mikhailov’s diverse research, educational and publishing activities. These include (a) his own arachnological studies; (b) compiling the *Catalog of Spiders of the Former USSR*; (c) creation and/or complete recuration of ZMMU arachnological collections on different groups; (d) creation of the comprehensive arachnological library; (e) publication of the journal *Arthropoda Selecta*; (f) other publishing work; (g) educational work.

Kirill Mikhailov’s arachnological studies. This research embraces the taxonomic work first of all on the spider genera *Clubiona* and *Micaria*. In addition, Kirill worked on Licocranidae, Thomisidae and Trachelidae. In total, he has authored 228 publications on spiders, and described 57 new species.

At this moment, Kirill is also one of the few domestic authors who studied the history of arachnological research in Russia. A number of papers in this field have been published (Mikhailov 1996a,b,c, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2021; Marusik *et al.* 2005), and we can expect many more in near future.

It has been long clear that Kirill had a special passion for bibliography and catalogisation. One of his early works in this fashion was a checklist of spiders of Turkmenistan (then only 335 species) Mikhailov & Fet (1994), which also included a zoogeographic survey. Such works promoted further arachnological research in hitherto understudied regions. However, the *opus magnum* of Kirill Mikhailov became his *Catalogue of Spiders*—which was conceived as that of the USSR but due to the political turmoil eventually came to bear the erstwhile country’s name as “of the *Former USSR*”.

The Catalogue of Spiders of the Former USSR. A checklist was published as a journal version in *Arthropoda Selecta* (Mikhailov 1996a); then, it became a book (Mikhailov 1997, 2013). The last update was published in 2021, the Catalogue was uploaded online as an open-access set of Excel tables. The latest version includes all spider data up to 2017.

Kirill Mikhailov’s *Catalogue of Spiders* became the first work after that of Dmitry E. Kharitonov (1932; with an addendum in 1936) that summarized all species of spiders found within the USSR. It was not as detailed as Kharitonov’s treatise, but it includes three times more spider species—at this moment, 3437 species, 649 genera and 53 families.

Clearly, it was practically impossible in the 1990s to publish a detailed catalog that would take several thousand pages. At the beginning, the Catalogue existed as a set of cards that Kirill started compiling back in the 1980, and continued over 17 years, accumulating thousands of these cards (Fig. 2).

It is reasonable to state that Kirill’s *Catalogue*, as well as his *Bibliographica Araneologica Rossica* (Mikhailov 2012), has served as a major required source for, and hopefully will still continue to promote, arachnological research in the now independent countries that constituted “the Former Soviet Union”. It is constantly used as a reference by all generations of arachnologists not only throughout Russia but also in Ukraine (Mykola M. Kovblyuk, Anton A. Nadolny, Nina Yu. Polchaninova, etc.), Belarus (Yevgeni M. Zhukovets), Azerbaijan (E. Huseynov), as well colleagues from the UK, Israel, Finland, Sweden, China and many others.

As compared to the Platnick’s *World Spider Catalog* (Platnick 1993), Kirill’s work includes a more detailed distribution of each species within the former Soviet Union, and in the most recent version (2021) it is possible to see lists of species found in each country and in each geographical region. Numerous arachnologists working in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia, refer to Kirill’s Catalogue literally in every publication. Without this work it would be impossible to embrace and review information scattered literally in hundreds of publications.

Arachnological collections. Another fundamental achievement of Kirill Mikhailov, matching his *Catalog* effort, was

the creation of the world-level arachnological collection in the ZMMU. The spider collection in Moscow kept amassing with a high speed. Currently, it has over 200,000 specimens—about 100 times more than at the time when Kirill became its curator in the early 1980s. The ZMMU collection includes type specimens of more than 900 spider species. It is now impossible to imagine the arachnological research in the territories of the former USSR without this collection. For a long time, Kirill was assisted in maintaining the collection by Tatiana V. Piterkina, and by Daniil V. Osipov.

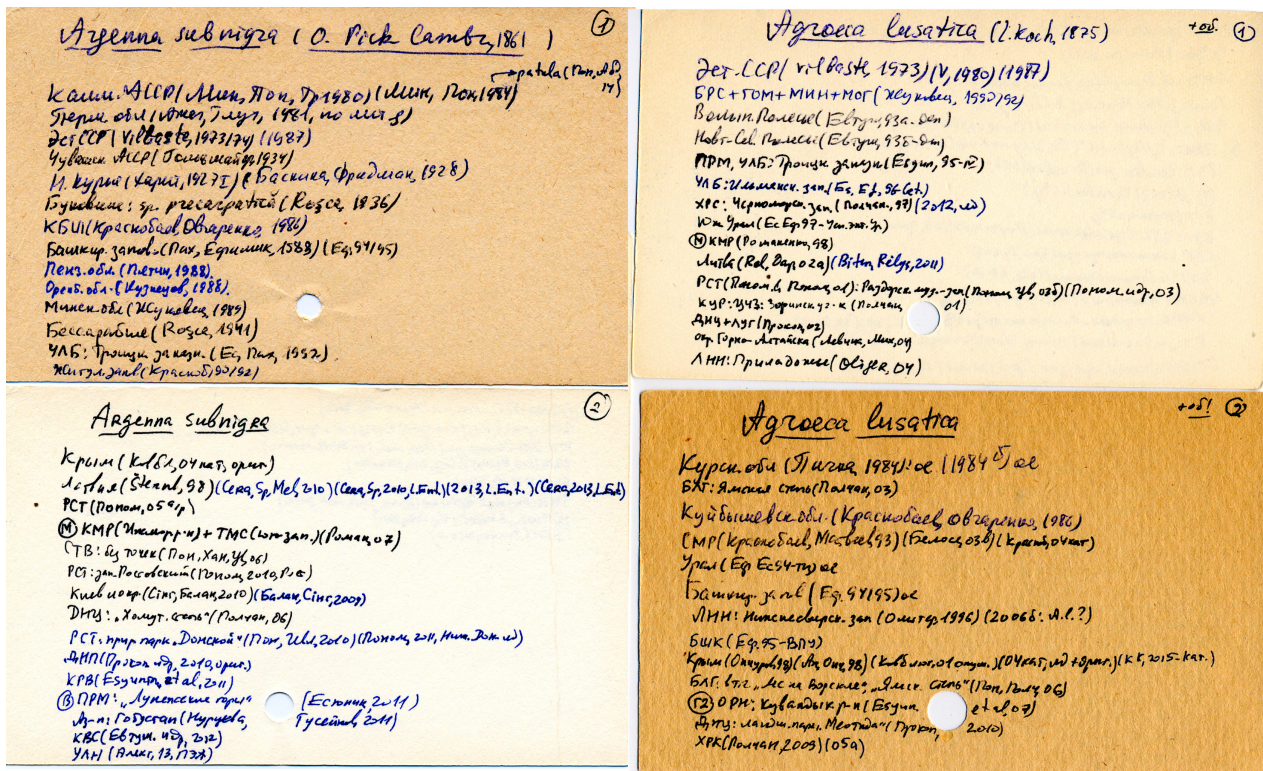


FIGURE 2. Handwritten cards used to create the catalog of spiders occurring in the former Soviet Union.

In addition, Kirill has organized and catalogued the type material of the ZISP (St. Petersburg), which currently has no professional curator of the spider collections.

Recently, he also prepared surveys of the type specimens deposited in the ZMMU. Five works are already published (one on harvestmen, four on spiders), and this is just a beginning: Kirill plans to survey almost all non-insect invertebrate type material (worms, crustaceans, etc.).

Arachnological library. In the 1980s–1990s, Kirill Mikhailov compiled the most comprehensive arachnological library in the USSR. It included full collection of all issues of the worldwide arachnological journals; the bulletins of the British, French, American, Japanese, and other arachnological societies; and several thousand reprints. As for the coverage of the USSR, this it is the most complete Russian arachnological library. In addition to research papers, it includes all dissertation digests (*‘avtoreferat’*), conference abstracts (*‘tezisy’*), newspaper articles, etc. This library allowed Kirill to compile the abovementioned Catalog. More than often, these were obscure publications printed locally, sometimes in other languages, for example Georgian, Estonian, Latvian, otherwise hardly available, and definitely not found in any other library in the world. In 1990, Normal Platnick himself visited the ZMMU to work with this Russian literature as he was writing the second edition of his *World Spider Catalog* (Platnick 1993).

Arthropoda Selecta. Publishing activity forms one of the major parts of Kirill Mikhailov’s life. As professional arachnologists, we first must mention here his journal *Arthropoda Selecta*, which has been published almost for three decades, since 1992. The journal published over 500 papers in arachnology (including revisions, reviews, jubilee articles, obituaries, and memoirs). Hundreds of new species and dozens of new genera of arachnids (spiders, pseudoscorpions, harvestmen, solpugids, scorpions). The journal’s appearance was very timely. In the early 1990s, with the economic crisis that accompanied the fall of the USSR, there was hardly any place for young arachnologists to publish. Foreign journals were largely not accessible, as they required society memberships and/or would not publish works of local interest. Also, at that time it was financially impossible even to mail a manuscript abroad. The emergence of an English-language journal at that time in Russia was a blessing that literally saved the careers of the majority of arachnologists in the former USSR.

This journal was, and still is, open to everyone—free of charge and open-access. The quality of the manuscripts is the only criterion of their acceptance. From the very start, the editorial cycle of the *Arthropoda Selecta* was much faster than in most other domestic or international journals. Today, with the appearance of such speedy journals as *Zootaxa* and *ZooKeys*, fast publishing is common, but in the 1990s it was a unique phenomenon.

The role of *Arthropoda Selecta* among taxonomic zoological journals is now firmly established. Here is some impressive spider statistics. From 2000 through mid-2010, 6,396 new spider species were described in 250 journals worldwide. Over 50% were published in just 14 journals. After the leading *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* (777 spp.) and *Zootaxa* (605 spp.), only three other journals contributed more than 200 species (*Arthropoda Selecta* with 269, *Journal of Arachnology* with 226, and *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society* with 204) (Platnick & Raven 2013).

Since 2011, *Arthropoda Selecta* was included in the Scopus citation index, and recently, in the Web of Science. Importantly, *Arthropoda Selecta* was the third arachnological journal, after *Acta Arachnologica* (Japan) and *Journal of Arachnology* (USA), which provided open access (in PDF format) to all papers on Chelicerata, Crustacea and Myriapoda. It is also the first journal that offered open access to new publications as well as the archives.

A personal feeling of the first author of this contribution (YuM), shared by many, is that his research development and career would never be possible without *Arthropoda Selecta* and Kirill Mikhailov's Catalogue.

Other publishing work. Kirill's publishing activity was not limited to one professional journal. Over the years, he has heavily impacted Russian biology, as well as many other fields, with his role as a major scientific publisher. In 1992, together with Mikhail A. Kiryushkin, they have founded a publishing house, now known worldwide, under the name KMK Scientific Press, or Fellowship of Scientific Publication KMK (the name was derived from its founder's initials: Kirill Mikhailov and Mikhail Kiryushkin).

At first, only scientific journals were published but since 1999 the KMK Scientific Press started also publishing books, with about 2,000 titles published in more than 20 years. Today, the KMK output is on average one book every week. In the beginning, 80% of the published books were in the field of biology; now about 50% are on history. Others are on geography and medicine. Already by 2004, the KMK Scientific Press almost completely supplanted the central 'Nauka' publishing house in Moscow in biological literature. Many academic biological institutes cooperate with the KMK across Russia.

With Kirill's personal involvement, a series of new scientific journals has been established. As in the case with *Arthropoda Selecta*, this was crucial for the researchers who had to publish during the 1990s turmoil. The new KMK journals included: *Arthropoda Selecta* (since 1992; see above), *Russian Entomological Journal* (1992), *Arctoa* (1992, a journal of bryology), *Actias* (a journal on lepidopterology, 1994–1995, later fused with *REJ*), *Acarina* (1993), *Russian Journal of Theriology* (2002), *Invertebrate Zoology* (2004), *Ekologicheskoe planirovanie i upravlenie [Ecological Planning and Management]* (2006) *Caucasian Entomological Bulletin* (2005, was published by Kirill for a year, then transferred to YuNTs [The Southern Research Center] RAN, Rostov). Other journals have been supported by the KMK Scientific Press: *Povolzhskii ekologicheskii zhurnal [The Povolzhye Ecological journal]* (2008), *Aridnye ekosistemy [Arid Ecosystems]*; the KMK also partially supports and distributes the *Euroasian Entomological Journal* (2002) that is published in Novosibirsk. *Russian Entomological Journal*, *Invertebrate Zoology*, and *Arctoa* are included in the Scopus index; two journals (*Arthropoda Selecta* and *Russian Journal of Theriology*) are currently included in both Scopus and the Web of Science.

Currently, Kirill serves as the Chief Editor of both *Arthropoda Selecta* and the *Russian Entomological Journal*. It is not an exaggeration to say that Kirill's and KMK's service to the scientific community rivals that of many classical Russian scientific publishers of the 19th-early 20th century.

Educational work. Currently, Kirill teaches two courses in the MSU: General Arachnology (Dept. of Entomology) and the Large Practicum in Arachnology (Dept. Invertebrate Zoology). In 2011, he published a teaching guide on *General Arachnology (Introduction; Small Orders)*, the first (and, we hope, not the last) of this kind in Russia. Kirill advised a number of M.S. students and was an informal advisor on Ph.D. dissertations.

Another aspect of educational work in arachnology is Kirill's long-term collaboration with the famous Russian journal *Priroda [The Nature]* where he has published brief popular notes; the total of 91 such notes were published since 1987.

Kirill Mikhailov's amazing productivity, broad scientific expertise, superb publishing skills, and selfless service to the worldwide community of scholars made an indelible impact on the progress of our field over the last three decades.

On his 60th birthday, we would like to wish Kirill Glebovich Mikhailov an excellent health and a very productive further work benefiting arachnology as well as science in general.

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Patronymy honoring Kirill Mikhailov

Kirill's work has been highly appraised and valued by many zoologist colleagues, first of all those in arachnology. It is a tradition of systematic zoology to name taxa after the colleagues; and, over the years, 14 spider species have been named after Kirill Mikhailov.

This Festschrift proudly adds 16 more species and one genus of arthropods to the list.

Taxa named after Kirill Mikhailov (1999-2021):

Class Arachnida

Order Araneae

1. *Afraflacilla mikhailovi* (Prószyński, 2000) (Salticidae)
2. *Alopecosa mikhailovi* Omelko, Marusik et Koponen, 2013 (Lycosidae)
3. *Chalcoscirtus mikhailovi* Logunov & Marusik, 1999 (Salticidae)

4. *Clubiona mikhailovi* Deeleman-Reinhold, 2001 (Clubionidae)
5. *Cybaeus mikhailovi* Marusik et Omelko, 2021 (Cybaeidae)
6. *Diaea mikhailovi* Zhang, Song et Zhu, 2004 (Thomisidae)
7. *Episinus mikhailovi* Zamani et Marusik, 2021 (Theridiidae)
8. *Evarcha mikhailovi* Logunov, 1992 (Salticidae)
9. *Fedotovia mikhailovi* Fomichev et Marusik, 2015 (Gnaphosidae)
10. *Parasyrisca mikhailovi* Ovtsharenko, Platnick et Marusik, 1995 (Gnaphosidae)
11. *Pardosa mikhailovi* Ballarin, Marusik, Omelko et Koponen, 2012 (Lycosidae)
12. *Stemonyphantes mikhailovi* Omelko et Marusik, 2021 (Linyphiidae)
13. *Talanites mikhailovi* Platnick et Ovtsharenko, 1991 (Gnaphosidae)
14. *Thanatus mikhailovi* Logunov, 1996 (Philodromidae)
15. *Zelotes mikhailovi* Marusik, 1995 (Gnaphosidae)

Class Insecta

Order Hymenoptera

16. *Neocladia mikhailovi* V. Trjapitzin et S. Tryapitsyn, 2010 (Encyrtidae)

Taxa described in this Festschrift:

16 species and one genus belonging to 8 orders and 3 classes

Class Arachnida

Order Acari

Galumnella mikhailovi Ermilov, 2021 (Galumnellidae)

Order Araneae

Bucliona kirilli Zhang *et al.*, 2021 (Clubionidae)

Chinattus mikhailovi Logunov, 2021 (Salticidae)

Dysdera mikhailovi Fomichev & Marusik, 2021 (Dysderidae)

Glebych Eskov et Marusik, 2021 (Theridiidae)

Gorytes mikhailovi Mokrousov & Proshchalykin, 2021 (Crabronidae)

Raveniola mikhailovi Zonstein, 2021 (Nemesiidae)

Order Scorpiones

Olivierus mikhailovi Fet *et al.*, 2021 (Buthidae)

Class Insecta

Order Coleoptera

Dorytomus mikhailovi Legalov, Nazarenko & Perkovsky, 2021 (Curculionidae)

Protomauroania mikhailovi Tshernyshev & Perkovsky, 2021 (Dasytidae)

Order Hymenoptera

Austrosalius mikhailovi Loktionov, 2021 (Pompilidae)

Epeolus mikhailovi Astafurova & Proshchalykin, 2021 (Apidae)

Petersenidia mikhailovi Lelej, 2021 (Mutillidae)

Probles mikhailovi Khalaim, 2021 (Ichneumonidae)

Order Orthoptera

Epitettix mikhailovi Storozhenko, 2021 (Tetrigidae)

Order Trichoptera

Plectrocnemia kirmikhia Melnitsky *et al.*, 2021 (Polycentropodidae)

Class Crustacea

Order Amphipoda

Lyurella mikhailovi Marin & Palatov, 2021 (Crangonyctidae)