

IN MEMORIAM. EDUARD VASILIEVICH SEVERSKII
(May 5, 1940–October 9, 2021)

**M.N. Zheleznyak, M.N. Grigoriev, A.N. Fedorov, R.V. Zhang,
V.V. Shepelev, O.I. Alekseeva**

*Melnikov Permafrost Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Merzlotnaya str. 36, Yakutsk, 677010 Russia; o.i.alekseeva@mpi.ysn.ru*

Eduard Vasilievich Severskii, Candidate of Sciences (PhD) in Agriculture, head of the Kazakhstan Alpine Permafrost Laboratory at the Melnikov Permafrost Institute, passed away on October 9, 2021. An eminent scholar and highly qualified permafrost researcher, Severskii devoted his career to the study and mapping of seasonally and perennially frozen ground and related phenomena in the high mountains of Central Asia. The fond memory of the remarkable scientist and person will remain in our hearts forever.

Keywords: *Eduard Vasilievich Severskii, Asian alpine permafrost*



Eduard Vasilievich Severskii was born in Issyk village, Eibekshikazakh district of Almaty region, Kazakhstan in 1940. He graduated from the Abay Kazakh Pedagogical University with a MS degree in geography and biology in 1962. In 1972, he defended his Cand. Sci. dissertation “Forest site types and zonation of the dark coniferous forests in the Rudny Altai”. He began his career in 1974 working as a junior researcher at the Kazakhstan Alpine Geocryological Laboratory of the Permafrost Institute. Afterwards, he worked as a senior researcher and, since 1994 until his death, as the head of the laboratory.

E.V. Severskii made particular progress in studying seasonally frozen ground and alpine permafrost regions. He and his colleagues were the first to estimate the amount of ground ice in the Northern Tien Shan. These studies are of great scientific and practical importance for predicting natural processes, including most hazardous, devastating natural phenomena (mudflows, slushflows, etc.) and for developing highlands to solve specific problems in the design, construction, and operations of different engineering structures.

Scientific developments of E.V. Severskii have found wide practical application at the Institute of

Geography and the Institute of Archeology of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He took part in multiple geocryological field works, e.g., within the framework of the International Archaeological Expedition of the UNESCO project titled “Frozen Tombs of the Altai Mountains: Strategy and Prospects”. One of his achievements was that he revealed patterns of the formation of “sub-kurgan” permafrost in ancient burials of the Kazakh Altai.

Results of his research works have been summarized in scientific and technical reports and practical recommendations and published in scientific articles and monographs, as well as presented at various international scientific conferences in Kazakhstan, Belgium, and China. His works on zoning and dynamics

of alpine permafrost distribution in the Asian mountainous regions are of fundamental importance. During his scientific activity, E.V. Severskii authored over 100 scientific papers and 5 monographs. The 1:5 M geocryological map of Kazakhstan and the monograph “*Geocryology of Kazakhstan*” included in the National Atlas of Republic of Kazakhstan have been published for the first time.

Owing to Severskii’s excellent organizational skills and his team members commitment, the scientific results have repeatedly been given the status of key priority at the Melnikov Permafrost Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

This outstanding scientist and wonderful person will forever remain in our hearts and memory.

Received November 10, 2021

Translated by N.N. Mzhelskaya