

The progress report of Dr. G. Rodionenko  
from April 2005 to April 2006

Publications:

1) *Iris lactea*, a mysterious species // *Signa*, 2005, N 74, p. 3734–3737.

2) *Life of Seed* // *Signa*, 2005, N 75, p. 3795–3805.

3) *The Life of Rhizomes* // *The Iris Year book (BIS)*, 2005, p. 38–49.

In the autumn 2005, the paper “*Iris mandshurica*” was written and sent as a new version of the previous one, sent to AIS in 2001.

The main objective of the period under report was a creation of an updated system of the genus *Iris*. Our system is based on new principles, on a different interpretation of such a significant taxonomic unit as genus. Even the system submitted by B. Mathew, the greatest expert in the wild species, reflects the degrees of species affinity correctly far from always. The analysis of evolutionary development of the irises made me get a new angle on relations between groups of species. As a result, I had to clear some groups of species, which had no close relation to the *Iris* species, from the genus *Iris* in the strict sense. The separated groups took the rank of independent genera. There is no cause for anxiety, because they still may be referred to as irises in the ordinary life.

I intended to publish the new system in two versions: in a strict botanical and in a popular one. As the popular version is concerned, when I started the work, I could not foresee all the difficulties to surmount when doing it. It proved to be extremely difficult to put the problems of taxonomy in apprehensible and interesting form. In addition, I wished to tell about the mileage travelled during my 60-year period of working with irises.

I am happy to inform you, that when doing this work, I have discovered new principles, which will contribute much to the iridology. To add, this outline is in intimate interdependence with the outline “*Irises: their origin, evolution and taxonomy*” and actually represents its 3rd part.

8 of the 12 planned chapters of the outline have been written to date:

- *Iris* the physician
- Pages of nature
- Biological conglomerate
- 1st draft of the updated system of the genus *Iris*
- Family of irisarians
- Two captives of the genus *Iris*
- Golden drops
- Constellation of genera

It was a long time I had not worked so hard as I have been doing last year. This work exhausted me so much, that at the moment I need a pause for some rest, and will not be able to set about the outline completion till after that. Besides, I will have to prepare a resumptive paper about the new system of the genus *Iris* for “*Botanicheskii Zhurnal*”.

All the work made in last years and to be summarized in the outline “*The updated system of the genus Iris*” could by no means be fulfilled without the support rendered by AIS Foundation. My gratitude to the Foundation and the AIS members, who have been supporting me financially and morally, is immense. It is owing to your that my life in science was prolonged. For the purpose of completion of my work, I ask you to assign a grant for one year more: from April 2006 to April 2007.

Your respectfully, Prof. G. Rodionenko