DOI

WHAT IS «ECOLOGY» REVISITED

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INTRODUCTION

More than 10 years ago, I published an article in the journal "Ecology" entitled "Analysis of definitions of the concept "ecology"" [57], in which he demonstrated part of my collection of definitions of "ecology" (I know that the same, and maybe even more, collection was collected by academician V.N. Bolshakov). Then these and other definitions were included in a number of textbooks [59, 60]. However, a discussion with the reviewer of my article "Carl Linnaeus and Ecology" [58] L.Ya. Borkin and a request from the editorial board of the journal "Biosphere" in the person of prof. Slepyan forced me to return to this problem. Unfortunately, the content of ecology as a science is still understood in different ways, remaining a topic for discussion (see e.g.. [3, 7, 8, 59]). And no matter how biologists " puke the purity of the rows" (translated from Greek oikos – house, logos – science; thus, "ecology" is the science of the house, about the relationship between living organisms and their environment – everything seems to be obvious), the concept of "ecology" is more and more likened to the big ocean a ship that gets overgrown with algae and shells during the voyage, and if they are not cleaned in time, they can either sink his, or significantly slow down.

I note that the monograph by E. Macfedien [34], from which the epigraph of this article is taken, was published almost 50 years ago; naturally, during this period of time, changes have taken place in environmental science, and today it is impossible to talk about ecology as a "set of facts without any theory." Its boundaries are pushed far beyond even the synthetic biological discipline (they talk about "social ecology", "engineering ecology", "political ecology", "ecology of culture" (think about it – "science of the house of culture"?);in recent years, such "new directions" of ecological science as "ecological beekeeping" [48], "ecological asbestos science" [92], "acoustic ecology" [10] and "ecogeosophical worldview paradigm" [24], etc. have been added to my collection of various "ecologies" this happens for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the term "ecology" (the science of the house) turned out to be just very successful from a linguistic point of view.Secondly, a person is also a living organism in a relationship with the environment, and his behavior has a very significant impact on Nature. Therefore, from the standpoint of anthropocentrism, ecology is perceived more as a science that "serves" a Person depending on changes in his economic or social status than a natural science discipline.

Thirdly, ecology is a developing science, and its conceptual, methodological and theoretical apparatus has not yet been established (for example, discussions continue even about the main object of studying ecology [59]).

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