

## IN MEMORIAM OF EVGENIY G. SIDOROV

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1. Evgeniy Gennadyevich Sidorov (26.04.1955-20.03.2021).

2. Student Evgeniy Sidorov during his geological practices at Kamchatka, 1970s.



On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, a man who stood at the discovery of the Koryak-Kamchatka platinum belt passed away at the age of sixty-six. Despite severe health problems during the last several years of his life, he managed to create a team of young enthusiasts in Kamchatka. His ability to ignite people's interest in difficult work seemed unbelievable to many people. The secret is simple in theory, but it is complicated in practice. All the matter was in the natural optimism of Evgeniy G. Sidorov, multiplied by openness and sincerity. He could be merry and easy, heavy, frowning like a cloud, and sometimes sad, but it was impossible to imagine him in despondency, and while he was near us, it seemed that there were no unsolvable problems. He knew no middle ground in dealing with people. He either trusted someone unconditionally, giving his all, or he wanted nothing to do with him at all. The attitude of those around him was similar. They either considered him a friend and almost a family man (even seemingly random people!), or they didn't like him. This is the fate of all extraordinary and outstanding people.

Evgeniy Gennadyevich Sidorov was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1955 in the village of Kichuy in Almetyevsk district of the Tatar ASSR. His parents, Gennadiy Vladimirovich and Maria Pavlovna, were rural teachers. They were descendants of the participants in the Pugachev's Rebellion, who founded a small village in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. His childhood was in the village, where Evgeniy shouldered household chores from an early age. Many years later, this experience will manifest itself in arranging the field life of his charges. His colleagues always had a feeling of an umbrella over their heads, the confidence that they were cared for and taken care of. This applied not only to field work, but to all of life. Many geologists from different cities and countries will long remember *Sidorovka*, a small comfortable and tastefully furnished apartment on Piyp Boulevard in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. Dozens of scientists, his colleagues, pupils and friends stayed there from time to time since the early 1990s. I have spent first three years in Kamchatka in *Sidorovka* and will always warmly remember those times.

At school, Evgeniy immediately developed a taste for reading and a dream of traveling. At first, he did not even think of becoming a geologist. He wanted to be a sailor. At that time, it was the easiest way to see the whole world. Once, in a conversation with me, he recalled this dream and was glad that, due to some misunderstanding, he could not enter a maritime school and instead became a student of the Geology Department at Tomsk University. His dream of traveller was fulfilled as he worked in Mongolia, Alaska, Ghana,

Liberia and Laos, where he was engaged in exploration and expert evaluation of platinum, gold and diamond deposits.

Evgeniy Sidorov visited Kamchatka for the first time in 1976, when he was seconded to the Central Geochemical Party of the Kamchatka Geological Administration as his first field work. He was supervised by Anatoliy Baikov, his first mentor. That year, the party began geological and geochemical studies of the most prospective Kamchatka areas in relation to the ultramafic massifs. In 1978, Sidorov graduated from the university majoring in geological survey and prospecting of mineral deposits and moved to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, where in the status of a young specialist he continued to work in the same geological party. Farid S. Kutylev, then an employee of the Institute of Volcanology, also worked for this geological party. He became a friend and a mentor for Evgeniy. In 1981, Kutylev invited Sidorov into a Group of Special Research at the Institute of Volcanology. This group was engaged in exploration for gold, platinum and diamonds. At first, the proposal embarrassed Evgeniy, and he (as he recalled himself) reacted in the following way: "Come on, Farid, everyone there is so smart and wears jackets!" Farid waved his hand, and Sidorov began to work in this group. The strong team included Kutylev, Baikov, and Sidorov. They started intense work, and success was not long in coming. In the early summer of 1984, the Kutylev's group discovered platinum in pan concentrates in the valley of the right tributary to the Tapelvayam Brook in the Koryak Highlands, draining the rocks of the Seinav Massif. This was the first find in Kamchatka. Previously, only isolated signs of the metal were known in the re-

gion. Same year, a *Platinum Interdepartmental Scientific-Production Association* was established under the leadership of Academician Nikolai Alekseevich Shilo. A few years later, this organization raised funds for exploration works at Levtyrin-vayam and Ledyanoi Creeks. In the early 1990s, the association started mining one of the richest platinum alluvial deposits in the world. This discovery turned Kamchatka region into a Russian leader of platinum placer mining for several years. But, as it often happens, not a single geologist who made this discovery, from the very beginning believing in discovery of platinum placers in Kamchatka, was awarded a badge of the discoverer of the deposit. Evgeniy Sidorov strongly felt about this, not for himself, but rather for his mentor Farid Kutylev, who died in 1993, a year before the beginning of mining of the placers discovered by their group. To some extent, Sidorov managed to correct this injustice just a few months before his death. At the end of 2020, the Commission on New Minerals of the International Mineralogical Association approved a new mineral species **kufahrite** (PtPb), discovered in the Ledyanoi Creek placer and named after its discoverer (Sidorov *et al.*, 2021).

It is necessary to tell that merits of Sidorov in Kamchatka platinum discovery were noted in due course. In 2000, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources awarded him a state award for the special contribution in geological study, which led to discovery of three platinum deposits. In 2005, he received a breastplate for *Excellence in Mineral Exploration for long-term conscientious work and great contribution to development of the Russian mineral base*.

3. **Kufahrite** (PtPb) veinlets in aggregates of chromite and PGE minerals from the Ledyanoi Creek placer in the Koryak Upland (Sidorov *et al.*, 2021). SEM images, backscattered electron (BSE) mode. Abbreviations used for minerals: Chr – chromite; Tfp – tetraferroplatinum; Ifp – isoferroplatinum; Pb – presumably native lead.

