BOOK REVIEW

S. V. Zinov'eva (Ed.): Katalog tipovykh ekzemplarov nematod i akantotsefal Gel'mintologicheskogo muzeya RAN [Catalogue of nematode and acanthocephalan type specimens in the Helminthological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences].

KMK Scientific Press Ltd., Moscow, 2009. ISBN 978-5-87317-558-1, 457 pp., 232 plates of illustrations. Price RUB 200.00 or EUR 50.00.

The significance of large, internationally recognised helminthological collections is generally well known. Especially the type specimens deposited in them represent an indispensable aid for the solution of taxonomic problems and a re-examination of these materials upon which often inadequate original species descriptions have been based are frequently the first prerequisite for the correct identification of other specimens. In accordance with the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the lists of the type specimens of helminths deposited in such collections should be, from time to time, published.

At present, the Helminthological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) possesses one of the largest helminth collections in the world, containing more than 100,000 specimens representing more than 4,000 species of parasitic organisms belonging to five main taxonomic groups (monogeneans, digeneans, cestodes, acanthocephalans and nematodes) from different regions of Russia, nearby countries, Vietnam, Mongolia and other countries of the world. These materials were collected during extensive helminthological investigations carried out in the course of 66 years of the existence of the Helminthological Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, founded and headed by academician K. I. Skryabin, and later the Institute of Parasitology, RAS. The most valuable part of these materials is represented by the collection of types, including holotypes and other type specimens of more than 1,100 species of helminths.

During recent years, in connection with efforts to build up an electronic system of information and database corresponding to current international standards used by other world parasitological museums, and in order that these may be freely accessible to specialists, a detailed inventory of all materials preserved in the

Helminthological Museum is being performed. There are plans to regularly publish the catalogues of helminths deposited in the Museum.

The first such catalogue of this series, dealing with the type specimens of nematodes and acanthocephalans, prepared by well-known Russian helminthologists N. I. Sumenkova, L. V. Filimonova, V. V. Lomakin, Zh. V. Udalova and T. M. Gennadiyeva, has recently appeared. This volume covers three groups of type specimens, including nematodes parasitizing plants and living in their rhizosphere (130 species belonging to 79 genera, 44 families and 11 orders), nematode parasites of animals and man (88 species of 61 genera, 31 families and 7 orders), and acanthocephalans (5 species of 5 genera, 5 families and 3 orders).

For each species listed in the catalogue, illustrations accompanying its original description and the following data are provided: the catalogue number and characteristics of type specimens, the type host, location, locality and the date of collection, names of collectors, the reference to the original paper, and possible remarks; for plant-parasitic and free-living nematodes also some usual biometrical characters. A total of 223 species of helminths is treated in this way.

This volume is very useful and, as mentioned by the Editor-in-Chief, it is intended for parasitologists studying systematics, helminthologists, phyto- and entomonematologists, soil zoologists and hydro- and agrobiologists. It will certainly be appreciated as an important source of information and an indispensable tool mainly for those working on nematode and acanthocephalan taxonomy. It is only a pity that being written in Russian, it will not be easily accessible to all helminthologists in the world. The authors, editor and publishers are to be congratulated on this publication.

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