

BOOK REVIEW

J. Sitko, A. Okulewicz: Checklist of the Nematodes in Birds in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Comenius Museum Přerov, Přerov (Czech Republic), 2010. ISBN 978-80-903713-9-2, hardcover, 100 pp. Price EUR 10.00.

Nematodes represent one of the most important groups of parasites of birds, which may cause considerable economic losses in domesticated hosts or birds living in captivity. Moreover, the nematodes parasitizing fish-eating birds utilize fish as intermediate- or paratenic hosts and thus endanger fish in aquaculture. During recent decades, there is a general demand to pay more attention to studies on biodiversity that involve large-scale surveys of all groups of animals, including those without direct impact on human health or agriculture.

Investigations into the helminth parasites of birds in the territory of the present Czech and Slovak Republics (former Czechoslovakia) have a long history and, in the case of nematodes parasitizing birds, they date back to the early 30's of the last century. In the presently published "Checklist", the authors, both well-known, experienced helminthologists oriented to studies of the European fauna of helminth parasites of birds, not only critically evaluated data from more than 200 papers published during the period 1933–2010, but included were also unpublished Sitko's records obtained within his extensive studies carried out in the Czech Republic since 1962.

The checklist gives a contemporary overview of the species composition of these parasites, their bird hosts and distribution in the Czech and Slovak Republics. These data are worked out as the lists with references to the original studies and a complete bibliography to this subject from the geographical region in question is provided. The following seven sections are included: Introduction, Parasite-host list, Appendix (listing nematodes in captive birds and those not identified to species), Survey of

nematodes found in birds from the Czech and Slovak Republics, References, Host-parasite list, Index of parasites, and Index of bird hosts. The checklist is compiled in English to be useful for the introduction of these data to foreign parasitologists.

The main part of the checklist, Parasite-host list, presents information about a total of 152 nematode species listed from birds, of which 136 were recorded from the Czech Republic and 84 from the Slovak Republic. For each species, data on its definitive hosts, site of infection, records in the above-mentioned countries and some basic information on principle definitive hosts, zoogeographical distribution and life cycles (if known) are provided. However, it is necessary to mention that a few inaccuracies and small errors occurred in the text: e.g., *Desmido-cercella incognita* is reported as a newly recorded species for the Czech Republic – see p. 7 and 50, but in fact it was already found in cormorants in South Bohemia, CR 22 years ago! – see Moravec et al. 1988; the Ryšavý's record (1958) of *Contracaecum rudolphii* is absent from citations on pp. 38–39; information on p. 53 that *Avioserpens mosgovoi* larva was reported from a copepod by Moravec and Scholz (1990) is misleading, because it was identified only as *Avioserpens* sp., as correctly stated on p. 58. Despite these minor shortcomings, the text of this publication is well prepared.

The data presented in this checklist will be greatly appreciated by everyone who is interested in parasites of birds and, no doubt, this publication will become an important source of information for helminthologists, veterinarians, zoologists, university students and those engaged in nature conservation.

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