BOOK REVIEW

N. Pelgunov (Ed.): Katalog tipov ploskikh chervey v Gel'mintologicheskome Muzei Tsentra Parazitologii IPEE RAN [Catalogue of flatworm types in the Helminthological Museum of the Centre of Parasitology, A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences]. Prepared by L. V. Filimonova and V. V. Lomakin.

KMK Scientific Press Ltd., Moscow, 2011. ISBN 978-5-87317-699-1, 426 pp., 207 plates of illustrations. Price RUB 300.00 or EUR 40.00.

Type specimens 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 is frequently the first prerequisite for the correct identification of other specimens. In particular, it concerns helminth parasites. Consequently, the significance of large, internationally recognised helminthological collections is generally well known. At present, 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, trematodes, cestodes, acanthocephalans and nematodes) from different regions of Russia, nearby countries, Vietnam, Mongolia and other countries of the world, is possessed by the Helminthological Museum of the Centre of Parasitology, A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

The helminthological collection of the present Museum was built up by the researchers and students of the former Helminthological Laboratory, Academy of Sciences of the USSR (later Institute of Parasitology, RAS, and Centre of Parasitology, RAS since the end of 2006) in the course of many decades. They elaborated and identified colossal collections of the Union Helminthological Expeditions to different regions of the then Soviet Union, starting from the westernmost regions and ending in Kamchatka and Chukots Peninsula in the Far East. 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. In addition to the researchers of the Institute, considerable contributions to the collection of types were provided by Prof. M. M. Belopol'skaya from the Lomonosov State University, Drs. S. K. Bondarenko and K. V. Regel' from the Institute of Problems of the North, and researchers from other institutions.

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

The first catalogue of this series, dealing with the type specimens of nematodes and acanthocephalans, appeared in 2009 (reviewed in *Folia Parasitologica* 57: 16, 2010). It can be highly appreciated that the second volume of this series is now available, soon after the first one, treating parasitic flatworms belonging to three classes: Monogenea (reported as Monogenoidea), Cestoda and Trematoda.

The arrangement of provided data is the same as that used in the first volume. For each species listed in the catalogue, illustrations accompanying its original description and the following information are given: the catalogue number and characteristics of type specimens, the type host, site of infection, locality and the date of collection, names of collectors, the reference to the original paper, and remarks. A total of 207 species of flatworms (6 Monogenea, 100 Cestoda and 101 Trematoda) is treated in this way. A species index is also provided.

This volume will certainly be appreciated as an important source of information, especially as a basis for subsequent revisions of helminth taxonomy, for parasitologists and helminthologists, but also interested veterinarians, zoologists, wildlife and fisheries biologists, university students and others. 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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