

N. A. FILIPPOVA: ARGASOVYE KLESHCHI (ARGASIDAE). *Fauna SSSR, Paukoobraznye, vol. IV, Part 3, Izd. Nauka, Moskva—Leningrad, 1966, 255 pp., 540 figs., 2 colour plates, 39 tables.*

This latest volume in the series *Fauna of the USSR*, written by the well-known specialist in the group Ixodoidea, is devoted to Argasidae, a very important family from the aspect of public health. It is the first study of soft ticks in the world literature that has been so extensively presented within the framework of the fauna of one country. In the introductory general part (pp. 7—84) the external morphology is dealt with first, then the structure and function of internal organs (body cover, muscles, organs of digestive tract, excretion, blood system, respiration, reproduction, nervous system, sensory organs and coxal glands) are described. The biology, distribution, system, medical importance, prophylaxis and control, as well as collecting methods and determination of soft ticks are discussed in the next part of the book, which is followed by a comprehensive list of references (pp. 84—104). The systematic part (pp. 105—248) is concerned with individual subfamilies, genera and species, including keys to all developmental stages. A total of 17 species belonging to 3 genera (*Argas*, *Alveonatus* and *Ornithodoros*) are listed. Higher systematic units comprise a list of most important references, morphological-biological characteristics and an outline of lower categories. Each species is provided with a comprehensive list of references, descriptions of all known developmental stages, information on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiological and epizootological importance. Profuse illustrations and a great number of tables contribute to the high quality of this monograph. Very instructive are two colour charts showing the distribution of individual

species in the USSR. A list of Latin names of soft ticks and their hosts is appended at the end of the book.

In its concept the publication exceeds the framework of the USSR territory. Morphology and anatomy are presented in detail and contain a number of original results obtained by the author after several years of study. The data on biology, geographical distribution as well as on the development of systematic division of the family Argasidae are extremely valuable. The author adheres to the system which differs in some points from the system of American authors. The genus *Alveonatus* with subgenus *Ogadenus* is regarded as a distinct genus, systematically closely related to the genus *Otobius*. *Theriodoros* is considered to be a distinct subgenus within the genus *Ornithodoros*. The systematics of the species belonging to the subgenus *Argas* s. str. is evaluated from a new angle. *O. verrucosus* is listed and justified as the correct species name for *O. asperus* and *O. papillipes* for *O. tholozani*. The book appears to have been carefully edited, leaving but a few errors (e. g. *A. erobius* instead of *eboris* — pp. 166, 250, *A. neghemei* instead of *neghmei* — pp. 112, 250, *N. perenopterus* instead of *percnopterus* — pp. 132, 252) and some inaccuracies in the literature cited.

On the whole this monograph is an excellent and up-to-date work which will attract the interest of all specialists and on which the author can be sincerely congratulated.

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