

SYMPOSIUM ON ARBOVIRUSES OF THE CALIFORNIA COMPLEX AND THE BUNYAMWERA GROUP, BRATISLAVA, OCTOBER 18-21, 1966

The Symposium on Arboviruses of the California Complex and the Bunyamwera Group, organized by the Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Bratislava, in cooperation with the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Praha and the Institute of Virology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, was held from October 18 to 21, 1966 in Smolenice, Slovakia. Apart from the Czechoslovak participants it was attended by 36 foreign guests from 20 countries.

The scientific programme was divided into four sections. Each section was opened with an introductory paper which summarized and evaluated the existing knowledge on the appropriate topic. The subsequent papers were concerned with new information on the given subject and each group of papers dealing with the same problems was followed by discussion.

The first section dealt with the biology of arboviruses of the California Complex and the Bunyamwera group. The introductory paper was presented by D. Blaškovič and the following papers were concerned with the *Ťahyňa* virus and some tissue cultures, fluorescent antibodies, structure of some viruses, unspecific inhibitors etc.

The second section, which dealt with the ecology of arboviruses of the California Complex and the Bunyamwera group, comprised the highest number of papers and contributions to the discussion. The leading paper was presented by B. Rosický, while C. Sanmartin from Columbia read an extensive communication on the ecology of the Bunyamwera group arboviruses. The subsequent interesting papers dealing with viruses of the California Group in Florida, studies on the *Ťahyňa* virus in France, Austria, Finland and the occurrence of antibodies in Italy, were read by scientists bearing prominent names such as J. Bond, C. Hannoun,

A. Sanna etc. Other papers were concerned with studies on the ecology of the *Ťahyňa* virus in Czechoslovakia and its relationship to mosquitoes. The contributions presented by K. M. Pavri, C. E. Gordon Smith and J. A. R. Miles dealt with the *Čalovo* virus and mosquitoes and with some viruses of the Bunyamwera group in Asia.

In the third section, devoted to the pathogenesis of infections caused by arboviruses of the California Complex the introductory paper, read by V. Bárdoš, was followed by the communications presented by Czechoslovak scientists, dealing with experimental infections, viremia and antibody formation in mice, rabbits and monkeys.

The fourth section was concerned with the medical importance of arboviruses of the California Complex and Bunyamwera Group. Two leading papers were presented: W. H. Thompson (USA) spoke of infections caused by the California group viruses and J. P. Woodall (Brazil) talked about infections caused by the Bunyamwera group viruses. Other papers were read on the California group viruses in Florida and on the medical importance of the *Ťahyňa* and *Čalovo* viruses, mostly by Czechoslovak participants.

The Symposium was concluded with a half-day seminar on arboviruses transmitted by mosquitoes of other groups occurring in Europe. Following the main paper read by H. Libíková, communications were given by M. P. Chumakov, E. N. Levkovich, Z. Wroblewska and other foreign participants.

The Symposium was of high standard and very successful. Great interest of foreign scientists in the Symposium and directly in the *Ťahyňa* and *Čalovo* viruses isolated in Czechoslovakia marked a high esteem for the research done by Czechoslovak specialists.

The proceedings of the Symposium will be published in a separate volume.

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