NOTES ON THE MICROFLORA OF PELLETS OF ROOKS

In the coniferous forest near Vysoké Mýto, eastern Bohemia, which served in the winter of 1966—1967 as a regular night refuge for about twenty thousand overwintering rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) and jackdaws (*Coloeus monedula*), pellets of these birds were collected between January 17 and February 8, 1967 containing mostly straw, some remnants of corn, maize and litter picked in rubbish heaps (for example bones of larger animals, stones, various rubber material etc). A total of 15 typical pellets of rooks was subjected to a detailed microscopic examination and their suspensions were cultivated on Sabourad's glucose agar, both without and with addition of antibiotics (chloramphenicol and actidion).

Numerous yeast-like microorganisms, for example representatives of the genera *Candida* (*C. albicans* was absent), *Rhodotorula*, *Sporobolomyces*, *Geotrichum*, *Trichosporon*, *Cryptococcus* (*C. neoformans* was not isolated) etc. were very often found in the fresh pellets. On the other hand, the saprophytic fungal organisms of the genera *Mucor*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium* were abundant. During the microscopic examination macroconidia of the genus *Microsporon*, most probably belonging to the species *M. gypseum*, were found on two occasions, but the attempt to prove this geophilic dermatophyte by cultivation was unsuccessful.

The result of the examination of the bowels of 3 white mice following the intraperitoneal inoculation of pellet suspension with addition of antibiotics (penicillin, streptomycin and polymyxin) was also negative — the mice were dissected 5 weeks after application, but no mycotic agents belonging to the genera *Cryptococcus Histoplasma* or *Emmonsia* were demonstrated in the tissues.

On the same occasion a bacteriological test was conducted which showed that the fresh pellets contained a large number of enterococci (*Streptococcus faecalis*), lactobacilli, enterobacteria (non-pathogenic) and other Gram-negative rod-shaped organisms (mostly psychrophylic) and a lesser number of bacilli.

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