

V. I. VOLGIN: KLESHCHI SEMEISTVA CHEYLETIDAE MIROVOI FAUNY
(MITES OF THE FAMILY CHEYLETIDAE OF THE WORLD FAUNA.)
Nauka, Leningrad, 1969, pp. 432, price 3 rubles 60 kp.

After his preparatory studies of many years' standing, the results of which have been published concurrently, V. I. Volgin tackled in this book the family Cheyletidae from the viewpoint of modern taxonomy, i.e. without the forms adapted to parasitic life which belong to closely related families today. Nevertheless, this family still includes a number of hygienically and medically important species, e.g. of the genus *Cheyletus* or of the genera important for veterinary medicine (*Ornithocheyla*, *Bakericheyla* etc.). This publication is primarily a taxonomic treatise, but a considerable attention is also given to bionomy, as far as it is known in individual species. It is notable that also developmental stages are dealt with in detail.

The reader can find information about the morphology of adult mites, the changes of separate characters during development in relevant chapters, one of which includes a survey of hitherto known developmental stages. The chapter concerned with ecology and biology is rather comprehensive, the Cheyletids are divided into nine ecological groups from free living forms to parasites, and in its conclusion a brief survey of zoogeography is added. It is followed by historical surveys of taxonomy of Cheyletid mites in general and of the family Cheyletidae in particular. The detailed list of references precedes a special part including detailed keys to adult mite species as well as hitherto known developmental stages. The book is profusely illustrated, comprising more than 500 figures.

V. I. Volgin is the pupil of A. A. Zakhvatkin and his work is characterized by typical features of his teacher. He carefully selects individual characters, preferring those which provide the least possibility of error and with their help knows how to assess even those cases which must be solved on the basis of a rather imperfect description. While arranging the keys he is often compelled to use only secondary characters due to the imperfect previous descriptions to which documentary material is either lacking or unavailable.

He also points out many other, often more important characters, discovered by himself in his studies (setae on tibia I etc.). The importance of his treatise becomes clear, when we compare it with the well-known book by Baker (1949). The latter work, considered so far as the basic book on the family Cheyletidae, includes 86 species in 19 genera, while Volgin describes as many as 152 species in 55 genera. During twenty years this family has nearly doubled in number and shows the speed with which our knowledge on mites has expanded lately. The family Cheyletidae includes many species which are important for man and his economy. This book will therefore attract many readers outside the professional circle of acarologists. Its propagation will be also speeded up by the fact that its author is well-known for his reliability and an excellent knowledge of the studied groups.

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