

In Memoriam Elena Angelova Dimitrova

With deepest regret we learned of the death of the prominent helminthologist Dr. Elena Angelova Dimitrova CSc. on January 27, 1970. Dr. Dimitrova was born in Kazanlyk on April 15, 1915. Upon graduation from Kazanlyk secondary school, she commenced her studies at the University of Sofia, receiving her degree in natural sciences in 1938. From 1939—1946, Dr. Dimitrova taught natural sciences at various secondary schools. After the war, she started her scientific career as junior scientific officer at the Academy of Medicine in Sofia. Her first paper on helminthology published in 1948 dealt with the helminths of preschool and school children, the distribution of helminths in children homes, in recreation centres and also among miners etc. She studied the development of eggs of the pinworm in its external environment, the influence of UV rays on the development of the nematode *Enterobius vermicularis* and, in collaboration with her colleagues, the influence of ultrashort waves on the larva of *Trichinella spiralis*.

In 1953, Dr. Dimitrova was one of the leading scientific officers of the Central Helminthological Laboratory of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Together with other scientists of this Laboratory she commenced studies on the distribution of helminths among domestic animals giving special attention to the epizootology of helminths especially of the cestodes of ruminants. Later, Dr. Dimitrova became interested in studies

of helminths of free-living mammals and, therefore, organized numerous field expeditions. Her interests became focussed also on the distribution of helminths of small mammals (Rodentia and Insectivora) and on their epidemiological and epizootological importance. On the basis of ecological aspects, Dr. Dimitrova evaluated the helminths of domestic and free-living mammals and derived from it important practical conclusions. She devoted to helminthological problems about 60 scientific articles and 50 contributions popularizing these problems.

As one of leading scientists of the Central Helminthological Laboratory of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and as a member of the Bulgarian Parasitological Society, Dr. Dimitrova was not only a fervent propagator of the Soviet helminthological school of K. I. Skrjabin, but also of Soviet biological sciences. Many of her former pupils to whom she had lectured helminthology at the Department of Zoology of the Sofia University are working now at various parasitological institutions. Her unfailing thrive was kept up right to the end. During the last years of her life, when her health was severely undermined by a grave disease, she continued work on her doctor thesis which, unfortunately, was interrupted by death. Her departure will be felt as a great loss, but her achievements in helminthology will live on as a monument of respect and admiration.

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