

Gutsevich A. V., Monchadsky A. S., Shtakelberg A. A.: Komary sem. Culicidae (Mosquitoes of the family Culicidae.) Fauna SSSR, Tom III, vyp. 4, AN SSSR, Leningrad 1970. (In Russian.) 384 pages, 261 figures

The fauna of mosquitoes, the important ectoparasites and vectors of some disease agents, has been most thoroughly studied in the U.S.S.R. and is one of the best elaborated groups in the world thanks to a number of workers who were engaged in these studies. Considerable material collected and deposited in the Institute of Zoology, the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. in Leningrad has been studied since the twenties and dealt with in the monographs by Monchadsky (1936) and Shtakelberg (1937) which appeared among the first ones in Europe. The present monograph summarizes many years of experience of both authors and represents their lifework. The book is divided into two parts — an introduction and a special part. The introduction is devoted to morphological nomenclature of imago and of other developmental stages. Subsequent chapters of the general part deal with geographical distribution of mosquitoes, their significance for man (prepared by the late Academician E. N. Pavlovsky), methods of collection, preparation and preservation of collections. Enclosed is a list of references where world and regional monographs are given in the first place, followed by main works dealing with systematics, faunistics, morphology and biology of mosquitoes, and finally by works dealing with mosquitoes as vectors.

In the special part a brief characterization of the family Culicidae is followed by a key to genera for male and female imagoes in accordance with hypopygia, and for larvae of IV stage. Next there is an analysis of individual sub-families and genera with keys to individual

stages of species, which are then dealt with. The species are named according to the present valid nomenclature; synonymy is given briefly with several species only. As far as individual stages are concerned, only those characters are primarily described which — together with figures — make possible the checking of determination in accordance with the keys. Where it was considered necessary by authors, notes concerning present views of systematical position are added. There is a paragraph on geographical distribution in the U.S.S.R., Europe and in other parts of the world. The section Biology deals with types of breeding sites, period of occurrence of larvae, larvae of species living together with the described species, overwintering instar, occurrence of imagoes, period of feeding, hosts, and medical importance.

A total of 85 species of mosquitoes registered from the Soviet territory are surveyed in this way, as well as 9 other species which could be anticipated here in the future. In the supplement 6 other species of the genus *Aedes* are given, which were found in the U.S.S.R. when the book was in press. The monograph is written in a brief, but most comprehensive way which proves the mastership of the authors. Thus, it becomes a basic work to be widely used also outside the U.S.S.R. On its basis the discovery of some other species, above all in adjacent countries, may be anticipated. Perhaps the only shortcoming of this excellent work is its relatively low edition (1 400 copies) which will soon make this book rare in the book market.

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