

Jirá J., Kozojed V.: *Toxoplasmose — 1908—1967. Literatur — Dokumentation, Reihe 3, Teil 1. Herausgeber: H. Raettig. Gustav Fisher Verlag Stuttgart 1970. Vol. I. Pp. 396, Vol. II. Pp. 464. DM 142,—*

The two-volume bibliography on toxoplasmosis literature was assembled by Dr J. Jirá and V. Kozojed, the workers of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague, and appeared in the series Documentation of Literature, edited by Prof. Dr. H. Raettig, G. Fisher Verlag, Stuttgart.

Volume I., bilingual (German-English) includes Introduction, Index of Subjects and Reference Word Index. The Prefatory note has been written by Prof. Dr. G. Henneberg of the Robert Koch Institute, West Berlin, while the Introductory Remarks are from the pen of Professor P. Beattie, University of Sheffield. Index of Subjects comprises 18 main topics referred to in annotated literature since the discovery of *Toxoplasma gondii* (1908) up to 1967. They are: General subjects, taxonomy, morphology, biology, resistance, cultivation, parasitic activity, the host and its reactions, experimental toxoplasmosis, diagnostic procedures, human toxoplasmosis, congenital toxoplasmosis, acquired adult toxoplasmosis, therapy of toxoplasmosis, spontaneous toxoplasmosis in animals, epizootology and epidemiology, prevalence and geographical distribution and public health aspects. Each of these main topics is divided into a number of subtopics according to the character of the subject. With each topic and subtopic there are numerical references to relevant literature in Volume 2. Each topic commences with a brief survey of work done in the given problem on a global scale. Volume I is completed with a reference word index which make swift orientation in sought questions possible.

Volume 2. includes 7,763 literary citations uniformly arranged in alphabetical order according to authors, consecutively numbered (this fact facilitates an easy orientation according to topics from Volume I), with full title of the published paper and even references to journals which reviewed the original article. In this way a basic information may be obtained even on papers which would be unavailable to the users of bibliography.

The authors' decision to compile a complete commented bibliography on toxoplasmosis made it possible to parasitologists, protozoologists, microbiologists, medical specialists and veterinarians, epidemiologists etc. to obtain complete filing material for their work from the global aspect. It is only to be regretted that the documentation has been followed up merely to the year 1967 and that the later period in which the discovery of faecal stages in the research of toxoplasmosis was made by Work and Hutchison (1969) has not been covered. It may be hoped that the Editor will continue to make this excellent bibliography up to date.

The authors succinctly compressed into the two volumes the enormous body of information on *Toxoplasma* and toxoplasmosis dispersed in journals as well as text-books of zoology, parasitology, human and veterinary medicine etc. They have also included in the bibliography titles of important papers on organisms which they consider to be related to *Toxoplasma*: *Besnoitia*, *M. organism*, *Sarcocystis*, *Encephalitozoon*, *Nosema*. Of special value, in my opinion, are introductory chapters in Volume I. preceding particular topics and subtopics. These chapters are an important creative and critical compilation of hitherto known facts on toxoplasmosis and the authors' original contribution.

It stands to reason that such an extensive work should contain some paragraphs which could be better organized (e.g. inadequate division of hosts in Chapter 15, obsolete classification in Rhodentia and Lagomorpha in 15.5; designation of the order Insectivora as Insectenfressende Tier etc.). However, these are minor inaccuracies which every reader will surely set right.

The book is well written and will be a great help to all who are or will be engaged in the studies on toxoplasmosis at present and in the future. It will make the studies considerably easier. It is an exceptionally successful vademecum in toxoplasmosis, indispensable to all who work in this scientific field.

Prof. Dr. Bohumír Rosický, Dr.Sc.