

The Second All-Union Conference of Acarologists in Kiev

Between April 20 and 23, 1971 the second All-Union Conference of Acarologists was held in Kiev which discussed the results reached in acarology in the period since the first conference held in 1966 and outlined also the outlook in this branch for the coming years. The conference was opened by the Academician A. P. Markevich. During the first two days the plenary meetings were held at which the main papers were read. V. I. Volgin appreciated the work and importance of the eminent Soviet-acarologist A. A. Zakhvatkin, V. K. Eglitis was speaking of the soil as the life environment of mites. Other complete papers were devoted to the present state of our knowledge and to further prospects of research on oribatid mites (E. M. Bulanov-Zakhvatkina), Sarcoptiformes (V. I. Volgin), Trombidiformes (B. A. Vaynshtein) and Gamasoid mites (N. B. Bregetova). The report of K. F. Geispitz and F. D. Sapozhnikov was dealing with the importance of the photoperiodic reaction in the seasonal adaptation of mites. I. M. Grokhovskaya was speaking about mutual relations between causative agents and parasitic mites and ticks. E. I. Korenberg and V. V. Kucheruk were concerned with the present state and perspective tasks in the studies on tick distribution. The paper by V. I. Vashkov dealt with the methods of chemical control of mites and ticks, A. B. Lange paid attention to the problems of the phylogenesis of mites and their place in the system of Chelicerata.

Further discussions were held in separate sections, of which there were nine: morphology and systematics of mites, phytophagous mites, soil mites, medical acarology, veterinary acarology, methods of tick control, sarcoptiform mites, gamasoid mites, and ticks. A total of 63 papers were read, and further 91 papers were presented at demonstrations only.

The papers of the first section dealt with methodology of forming of natural system, new classification of hypopi, peculiarities of growth and development of Pelopidae, revision of Listrophorinae, and anatomical problems of some Arachnoidea groups. The papers of the second section were focused on the systematics, faunistics, ecology, physiology, toxicology and resistance in Tetranychidae and Eriophyoidea. The work of the third section brought together the specialists in the Oribatei group, who pre-

sented papers concerning mainly the faunistics, ecology, fenology, and physiology of the mites. In the fourth section papers were read on the role of ticks in the transmission of arboviruses, the role of mites and ticks in the circulation of causative agents in natural foci and on mutual relations between causative agents and vectors of infections. The fifth and sixth sections were working together and dealt mainly with the problems of tick control in the U.S.S.R., the role of ticks in the transmission of some infections with domestic animals, and discussed mites of the Psoroptes and Syringophilus family as disease vectors. The papers of the seventh section were devoted to the various aspects of faunistics and ecology of Sarcoptiform mites in free nature, in nests of small mammals, as well as pests of stored products. The work of the eighth section was focused to the questions of ecology of gamasoid mites and to the bird parasites of the Dermanyssidae family. The agenda of the ninth section dealt with papers on mechanism of photoperiodic reactions in ticks, problems of mapping of occurrence and radioisotopic marking of ticks, the results of the revision of species in *Ixodes persulcatus* group, the influence of flooding on survival of ticks, and faunistics of some regions.

In the final session the papers and the work of the conference were evaluated and a resolution was adopted summing up the results reached in the sphere of acarology in the U.S.S.R. and outlining a number of tasks in the field of research, organisational and editorial activities. The bureau of the newly created acarological section of the All-Union Entomologic Society under the chairmanship of V. I. Volgin was also elected.

The conference was attended by 250 specialists from 48 towns of All-Union republics. From abroad were present E. Honzáková and V. Čorný, who also submitted papers. The conference has clearly shown the scope of research problems in the field of acarology in the U.S.S.R. as well as the richness of results achieved. The vast and well organized net of acarological institutions is a guarantee that also in the future the Soviet specialists will take a significant part in the overall development and progress in this field of science.

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