

All Union Conference on problems of trichinellosis of animals and man, Vilnius, U.S.S.R.

The All Union Conference on problems of trichinellosis of animals and man was held in Vilnius (Lithuanian S.S.R.) from May 30—June 6, 1972. The conference was attended by 122 specialists from the U.S.S.R. and 8 specialists from the socialist countries, i.e., 3 from Czechoslovakia, one from Bulgaria, 3 from Poland and one from Roumania.

A total of 40 contributions was delivered in the 5 sections of the conference. The contributions of the first day of the conference were concerned with the epidemiological and epizootological situation of trichinellosis in the various regions of the U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries.

In the afternoon of day 2, the biology and morphology of the nematode *Trichinella spiralis* were discussed. Among the papers delivered special mention deserves the important contribution by V. A. Britov, Far-East Veterinary Institute, who drew attention to the ununiformity of the species *Trichinella spiralis* (Owen, 1835), which consists of three varieties, recently considered by this author together with S. N. Boyev to constitute three independent species. These are: *Trichinella spiralis nativa* sensu Britov, 1971; *T. spiralis nelsoni* sensu Britov, 1971; *T. spiralis domestica* sensu Britov, 1971; the latter species being responsible for the majority of cases of trichinellosis of man. According to Britov, the remaining two species are not of great importance in the epidemiology of trichinellosis of man.

Of no less importance was the contribution by S. N. Boyev, Zoological Institute, Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences, on the important role of snails in the distribution of the larvae of *Trichinella spiralis*. J. Hovorka in a joint paper with Špaldoňová, Helminthological Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, referred to the influence of alcohol on the *Trichinella* larva and on the course of infection. Their experiments with laboratory mice indicate that the direct influence of alcohol is minimal on the isolated *Trichinella* larvae. Alcohol, however, ingested simultaneously with *Trichinella*-infested meat, decreases the excystment of the

larvae in view of insufficient digestion of the meat and, hence, decreases generally the incidence of *Trichinella spiralis* in laboratory mice.

In the afternoon of May 31, topics concerned with the pathogenesis, pathomorphology, clinic and treatment of trichinellosis were discussed. N. N. Ozeretskova pointed out that various strains (varieties or species according to Britov) show considerable clinical differences. She also drew attention to the inborne properties of the host which, under different conditions of infection, may influence the course of the disease. The reaction of the various *Trichinella* species to different drugs (cortisone, etc.) is different.

In the afternoon of the third day, diagnostic problems in trichinellosis were covered, and the various methods employed were discussed such as: compressor trichinelloscopy, serological methods, immunofluorescent methods etc. Highly appreciated was the paper delivered by J. V. Orlov on the mechanisation of trichinelloscopy of pork at the abattoir. Orlov pointed out the various deficiencies of manual trichinelloscopy. Having found this mode of inspection ineffective and too expensive, he developed together with his collaborators N. G. Fedorov and J. A. Rogov a semiautomatic apparatus called OFR (Orlov-Fedorov-Rogov) for preparing meat samples for inspection under the trichinelloscope. In this way inspection of one meat sample lasts 2 minutes. At present, the prototype is being tested.

The last afternoon of the conference was devoted to assignments in the research on trichinellosis and to suggestions of practical measures. In conclusion of the conference, a resolution was accepted by all participants.

The first successful All Union Conference on Trichinellosis has contributed considerably to the research of trichinellosis with a wealth of new knowledge and new suggestions for the control of this dangerous parasitosis of man listed among the diseases with a natural focus. The materials of the conference are deposited in the Library of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague.

Dr. J. Prokopčič, D. Sc.