

L. P. Spasskaya, A. A. Spasskiy: "Bird cestode from Tuva" (Cestody ptic Tuvy), Publ. House Shtiintsa, Kishinev, 1971, p. p. 251, 154 figs.

This publication written by the two well-known cestodologists L. P. Spasskaya and A. A. Spasskiy presents to the reader the results obtained during the Soviet helminthological expeditions to the Tuva Autonomous Republic for the years 1956—1968. The authors having participated in several of these expeditions, give a comprehensive account of the results of studies on the cestodes of birds from this region. The fauna of the Tuva Autonomous Republic has not been explored to a great extent in the past, although it is very important from the zoogeographical point of view. Natural conditions show considerable diversity in the areas, i.e., high mountain tundra and dry steppes, taiga and riverside forests, freshwater and salt lakes. This is reflected in the great diversity of bird species and their helminths. The authors examined more than 3,000 birds and recovered from them 149 cestode species belonging to 12 families and 2 orders, i.e., 5 species of the order Pseudophyllidea, 144 species of the order Cyclophyllidea. The dominant cestode families were Hymenolepididae (68 species) and Dilepididae (52 species).

A detailed description is given of all cestode species, and both descriptions and drawings are original. In a number of instances, descriptions of earlier authors have been exactified and completed to such an extent, that they are redescriptions rather. In this way, the authors of this monograph have greatly contributed to the solution of problems concerned with bird cestodes. Of importance are the detailed descriptions and exact drawings of many species described recently by Soviet authors from the

northern and most eastern areas of the U.S.S.R. Since these descriptions have generally been published in local Soviet periodicals dispersed throughout the Soviet Union, the monograph will facilitate studies on several groups of cestodes from the Palaearctic region. All descriptions of the species are completed with data on their occurrence in the Tuva Autonomous Republic, and often with notes on their biology. The authors have solved also several problems of taxonomy and systematics. They have erected 4 new genera (*Tetraonetta* — family Davaineidae; *Laritaenia* — family Dilepididae; *Lyrutaenia* and *Dictylerina* — family Paruterinidae). They have assigned the species *Raillietina* (R.) *uogalli* (Modder, 1790) to the genus *Tetraonetta* as its type species, and also the species *Davainea retusa* Clerc, 1903. They have transferred *Anomotaenia hydrochelidonis* Dubinina, 1953 to the genus *Laritaenia* as its type species; *Rhabdometra nigropunctata* (Crey, 1890) to the genus *Lyrutaenia* as its type species, and *Paruterina cholodkovskii* (Skrjabin, 1914) to the genus *Dictylerina* as its type species.

A list is given of the literature used in the monograph. The book by L. P. Spasskaya and A. S. Spasskiy is very important for studies on bird cestodes mainly from the Palaearctic region. It contains important data, which otherwise would be difficult to obtain and, therefore, similar to earlier publications of both authors, this monograph will be indispensable for every helminthologist.

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