A. V. Yankovsky: Podklas Chonotricha (Subclass Chonotricha).
Series "Fauna SSSR" No. 103, Infusoria, Vol. II., Part I. "Nauka" Publishing House, Leningrad 1373, 356 pp., 3.98 Rb.

Taxonomy of ciliates is presently in a state of profound changes, completely outdating the old monographs on parasitic and free-living ciliates. In addition to that, an enormous number of recently described new taxons can be found only scattered in publications of various authors. Thus there is an urgent need for synthetic monographic treatises of large ciliate groups. As to the subclass Chonotricha Calkins, this need is met most satisfactorily by Yankovsky's monograph. It is the first one since Kahl's, and presents an up-to-date review of this group of protozoans of great interest for parasitology. As ectocommensals they stand on the verge of parasitism and reveal some fascinating morphological and functional adaptations to the life on their crustacean hosts.

In the very comprehensive first part of the book, dealing with general characters of the group, the author presents a detailed survey of their morphology and morphogenesis of all important cell structures. An account is given on their complex life cycle evolved in close correlation to the molting cycle of their hosts, their exact localization on their hosts. Special attention is paid to the host-parasite relation in chonotrichs, their ecology and geographical distribution, as well as to the methods of research of these ciliates.

The second, taxonomic part shows that what has been until recently considered a rather insignificant group of aberrant ciliates is in fact an assemblage rich in genera (44) and species (more than 125). The majority of described species are endemic for the territory of the USSR being limited to hosts living only there. The author discusses relations between various genera and families of chonotrichs, presents his original views on their origin, phylogeny and position in the system of ciliates. Contrary to previous assumptions there is no evidence for an exclusive geological age or a parallel evolution with their hosts in this group. The author considers chonotrichs to be a young group, which could not have originated sooner than in the beginning of Palaeocene, and which has now reached its revolutionary peak. Most primitive chonotrichs are found on the higher peracarids, i.e., limnorids, pacific tallitrids and gammarids, not on phyllocorids. Their original hosts are amphipods and isopods, later they invaded other groups of hosts.

A total of 200 skilful line drawings aptly illustrate the text, and a complete bibliography is added. The author is to be congratulated on this book which will be found useful not only by ciliate specialists, but also by all parasitologists interested in complicated problems of host-parasite relationships.

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