

K. M. Ryzhikov, N. M. Gubanov, L. M. Tolkacheva, I. H. Khokhlova, E. N. Zinoveva, T. P. Sergeeva: Gelminty ptits Yakutii i sopredelnykh territoriy.

(*Helminths of birds of Yakutia and adjacent territories.*) Part I — Nematoda and Acanthocephala. Izd. Nauka, Moscow, pp. 1-204, 1973; Part II — Cestoda and Trematoda. Izd. Nauka, Moscow, pp. 1-340, 1974.

A group of Soviet parasitologists from the Helminthological Laboratory and Biological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. headed by Prof. K. M. Ryzhikov, examined and evaluated the material collected during helminthological expeditions to the Yakutsk Territory. The area of the Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic is very wide (3 million km²) and the birds as definitive hosts of helminths represent the most numerous group of vertebrates in this territory. It comprises 250 species, of which 232 are nesting in the Yakutsk Territory. The helminth specimens were recovered by dissecting almost 6 thousand birds belonging to 150 species of 16 orders.

The first volume is devoted to Nematoda and Acanthocephala. In the introduction the individual landscape types of Yakutia, namely tundra, taiga and mountain zone are briefly characterized with respect to characteristic elements of their avifauna (pp. 7-11). The following chapter (pp. 12-15) concerns the history of the study of helminth fauna in this territory. The basic chapters of the book deal with the classes Nematoda (pp. 16-127) and Acanthocephala (pp. 128-153). Nematoda include 184 species (104 of them occur in the Yakutsk Territory) and Acanthocephala 35 species (only 20 of them occur in this area). The helminths are presented in systematic order. For each genus first the species occurring in Yakutia and then those from neighbouring areas are mentioned. For each helminth species are given the data on definitive hosts in this territory, incidence of infection and bibliography. A great attention was paid to geographical distribution of helminths not only in the U.S.S.R. but also in the whole world. The data concerning the species from the regions adjacent to Yakutia are more concise, only definitive hosts, locality and the relevant references are recorded. An important part of the book is the faunistic analysis of helminths examined, their location in the definitive host, specificity, biology and geographical distribution. These data are given for each suborder. A logical conclusion of this volume is a survey of nematodes and acanthocephalans recovered from individual bird species in the area investigated (pp. 154-180). The list of

helminths is well arranged. On the whole, the book contains data on 222 species of birds from 19 orders and their helminths. The list of references is divided into papers concerning the Yakutsk Territory (19 references) and a list of all papers cited in the text (172). The indexes to Latin names of families and genera of helminths (pp. 192-193), helminth species (pp. 194-198), Russian and Latin names of birds (pp. 199-201), as well as general contents of the monograph (p. 204) help to better orientation in the text. The second volume devoted to Cestoda and Trematoda is arranged in a similar manner including the brief introductory chapters. The two main chapters present data on 330 species of cestodes (pp. 13-137) and 327 species of trematodes (pp. 138-245). The parasites were recovered from 257 species of birds belonging to 20 orders. Of the total number of helminths 180 species of cestodes and 133 species of trematodes occur in the Yakutsk Territory. A faunistic analysis, specificity, biology and geographical distribution of each species is given for the suborders. Similarly as in the previous volume, then follows a chapter listing the species of parasites according to their occurrence in the definitive hosts (pp. 246-295). The bibliography (pp. 296-317) includes 377 references cited in the text. Indexes to Latin names of families and genera of helminths (pp. 318-321), helminth species (pp. 322-334), Russian and Latin names of birds (pp. 335-339) and the general contents (p. 340) are also attached at the end of this volume.

It may be concluded that the monograph fulfils the aim laid down by the authors. Both volumes are an important contribution to the regional helminthological-faunistic investigation and prove the significance of Soviet helminthological expeditions. The critical approach of the authors to the solution of taxonomical problems should be appreciated. This monograph will be of great interest and importance not only to parasitologists engaged in general study of helminthology (especially geography of helminths), but also to ornithologists and veterinarians.

Dr. V. Baruš D.Sc.
Doc. Dr. B. Ryšavý D.Sc.