

First International Theriological Congress in Moscow

The First International Theriological Congress was held in the capital of the USSR from 6th to 12th June 1974. It was attended by 908 participants from 31 countries; 642 of them from the USSR. As to the number of delegates, Czechoslovakia (18) was on the 4th place behind the USA, Poland and GDR. Academician B. Rosický and Academician J. Kratochvíl were members of the Congress Presidium.

The Congress took place at the Moscow State University and was presided by Prof. V. E. Sokolov. After inauguration of the Congress, Prof. G. A. Novikov read his opening lecture on the present state of theriology. During the following 3 days the plenary sessions took place in the morning and meetings of the sections in the afternoon. There were 6 sections, namely Phylogeny and Palaeotheriology, Morphology, Systematics and Zoogeography, Ecology, Ethology, and Applied Theriology. Four of them were divided into subsections. The fourth day was devoted to the work of 17 symposia dealing with special subjects. On the last day of the Congress a Plenary Session was held in the morning and a Final Plenary Session in the afternoon. It was proposed to organize the Second International Theriological Congress in Czechoslovakia in 1978. It will be prepared and organized by the Institute of Vertebrate Research, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Brno.

The program of the Congress covered also parasitological problems. Four participants of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, headed by Academician B. Rosický, took part especially in the Section on Applied Theriology, Subsection on Medical Theriology. Three of the 13 lectures held in this subsection were read by Czechoslovak scientists. The lectures dealt with ecology of rodents of the plague transmission cycle in Central Java (R. W. Turner), dynamics of plague epizooties among great gerbil (E. V. Rothschild et al.), stability of rodent plague epizootic process applying a mathematical model (I. S. Soldatkin and Yu. V. Rudenchik), serological study of mammals in natural plague foci (Y. V. Kanatov et al.), role of mammals in the natural foci of tick-borne

encephalitis (V. Černý; E. I. Korenberg), rabies (G. B. Malkov and L. Y. Gribanova), leptospirosis (E. V. Karaseva), study of the ecology of certain small-mammal-borne infections in Iran (A. A. Arata et al.), principles of material simulation in epizootiology of non-transmissive zoonoses of mammals (V. Y. Litvin), role of mammals in the circulation of Tahyňa virus (V. Bárdoš), relationships of mammals and pathogens of some bacterial infections (T. N. Dunaeva) and virus of hemorrhagic nephro-nephritis (B. Rosický and V. Černý).

Symposium 15, Parasites and diseases of wild mammals, was held in the Gamaleya Institute of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. After the introductory lectures devoted to experimental studies of inhabitants of nests of small forest mammals (M. Daniel), relationship between fleas and mammals (N. F. Darskaya) and the use of isotopes in the study of ecology of small mammals (B. E. Karulin) followed a discussion concerning the problems and terminology of natural focality of diseases and medical theriology. The parasitological problems were also dealt with in the main lectures on the last plenary session where Prof. B. Rosický discussed the importance of mammals in evolution of different groups of parasites of vertebrates and Prof. V. V. Kucheruk the wild mammals as carriers of diseases dangerous to man.

The Theriological Congress in Moscow was very successful. The theriologists of the whole world had for the first time the possibility to meet and discuss the present state, problems and perspective of this branch of science, as well as establish personal contacts and become acquainted with the host country and its nature during the excursions. The medical theriology represented an important part of the working program. The Congress was well organized and attained its aim in all respects. The participants highly appreciated the scientific discussions and friendly meetings. It is to be hoped that also the next congress will help create a tradition of meetings of theriologists so successfully begun by the First Congress.

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