

The Fourth International Congress of Acarology

The Fourth International Congress of Acarology took place between August 12 and 19, 1974 in the Austrian town Saalfelden and was attended by 160 specialists from 36 countries. The program was divided into 12 sections: 1—Soil mites, 2—Marine and freshwater mites, 3—Plant mites, 4—Mites of stored products, 5—Parasitic Acari, faunistic and taxonomy, 6—Parasitic Acari, host-parasite interactions, 7—Acari of medical and veterinary importance, 8—Acari and epidemiology of diseases, 9—Taxonomy of higher categories, phylogeny and zoogeography, 10—Morphology, physiology and behaviour, 11—Genetics, population dynamics and experimental taxonomy, 12—Biological, chemical and physical control. Apart from this program the following symposia were held: Fine structures, Studies of mite gnathosoma by means of scanning, electron and light microscope, Biological control, Mite nutrition, Nidicolous mites, Mechanisms of tick feeding. In the evenings the workshops Directory, Gangsystematik, Tabulary Keys were organized. Czechoslovakia was represented at the congress by 4 participants who read a total of 14 papers written by Czechoslovak acarologists as authors and co-authors.

The official opening of the plenary session by dignitaries of the Congress was followed by the introductory paper entitled "Acarology in Austria" delivered by Prof. R. Schuster from Vienna, the president of the Congress. Afterwards Dr. P. Lebrun (Belgium) informed the participants about the activities of Société de l'acarologie de la langue française since its foundation. In conclusion Prof. M. J. Abatiello read the paper of Prof. T. Woolley (U.S.A.) entitled "Deans of American acarology."

The agenda of the Congress consisted of 2—3 parallel sections followed by separate symposia. In the two plenary sessions procedural problems were discussed. The text of the Rules for the International Congress of Acarology was approved. Also the organisational questions involving the preparation and distribution of the Directory of Acarologists, including the names of about 1300 specialists representing acarology today, were agreed upon. N. G. Bregetova (U.S.S.R.), T. E. and A. M. Hughes (Great Britain) and G. W. Wharton (USA) were elected as honorary members of the

Congress. W. Knülle (West Berlin), K. Samšínák (Czechoslovakia) and W. Sixl (Austria) were elected as new members of the International Executive Committee. The next Congress will be held in 1978, but its venue has not been decided yet.

The problems of parasitology and public health constituted the program of a number of sections. The papers in Section 5 dealt with, among others, chaetotaxy of legs and pedipalps of some Dermanyssidae, leg segmentation in chiggers, synhospitality and speciation in Demodicidae, geographical and ecological distribution of Pyroglyphidae, in Section 6 Acari on marine rodents in Hawaii, occurrence of *Hirstionyssus isabellinus* on reproductive female voles and bionomics of some parasitic mites on different hosts were discussed. In Section 7 a few papers were concerned with house dust mites, while the others were devoted to the isolation of a new virus from *Ixodes ricinus* in the German Federal Republic, to the phenomenon of neosomy, host-seeking mechanism in *Ornithodoros concanensis* and diagnosis of lung-mite infestation. In the papers of Section 8 attention was primarily paid to two groups of problems: epidemiology, epizootology and characteristics of natural foci of diseases and their components in tick-borne encephalitis and rickettsioses in Central Europe. Some papers in Section 9 were also devoted to general problems relevant to parasitic mites: evolution of mites, taxonomy of trombidiform mites and taxonomy of gamasoid mites. Most papers in Section 10 were concerned with different parasitic mites and ticks. The problems of parasitic mites were also included in symposia. This Congress was characterized by a great number of papers dealing with morphological studies using scanning microscope, which constituted the program of one section and two symposia and showed the perspectives of this modern method in acarology.

The Fourth International Congress of Acarology in Saalfelden was one of the successful events, which give specialists an excellent opportunity to be informed about the present state of research in their professional field and which facilitate exchange of opinion at personal meetings and discussions. All participants will remember this congress with gratification.

Dr. V. Černý, C. Sc.