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Symposium on Mallophaga and Anoplura, Berlin, November 1975

Between November 5. and 7. 1975 a Symposium on Mallophaga and Anoplura was held in Berlin. It was organized by the Parasitological Society of the German Democratic Republic and the Humboldt University in Berlin, primarily due to the efforts of Prof. Dr. T. Hiepe and Prof. Dr. W. Eichler. It was attended by 42 specialists from the G.D.R. (including 2 post-graduate students from Sudan and 1 from Algeria) and 12 scientists from other countries (Czechoslovakia 3, Poland 3, USSR 3, the Federal Republic of Germany 1, Hungary 1, USA 1). It was actually a first meeting of specialists engaged in the studies of these parasite groups, who came to Berlin to discuss the results obtained and to share experience. In three days a total of 26 papers were read, two of them by Czechoslovak participants. V. Černý discussed some parasite-host relationships in Analgoidea as compared with Mallophaga and J. Porkert reported on the methods of collecting biting lice off the host's body. The programme of the Symposium covered a wide spectrum of problems, e.g. the history of studies on Mallophaga and Anoplura (W. Eichler), their importance as ectoparasites (R. Ribbeck), taxonomy of Pediculidae (H. Ludwig), relations between Mallophaga of owls and raptorial birds (J. Zlotorzkycka), Mallophaga as predators of bird ectoparasites (R. Dagleish), morphology of *Solenopotes burmeisteri* (L. Britz) and of the genus *Anatoecus* in domestic ducks (P. Betke and R. Ribbeck), contemporary status of faunistic

research of Mallophaga in the USSR, in different parts of the Soviet Union (A. Fedorenko; J. Charambura; S. Kasiev) and in Poland (S. Wegner), the influence of *Bovicola ovis* on the quality of sheep wool (R. Buchwalder et al.). It should be emphasized that at present sucking and biting lice may pose a difficult problem in humane and veterinary medicine. For example the occurrence of *Pediculus capitis* in G.D.R. has shown a rising tendency lately and remains still on an undesirable level despite preventive measures undertaken (I. Dittmann). Also in the animal husbandry it is necessary to maintain strictly a complex of measures eliminating or suppressing to a minimum level the infestation of domestic animals. The importance of the control of these parasites comes forward particularly in the large-scale farming and fattening of domestic animals (T. Hiepe). It is therefore necessary to seek new possibilities and ways of this control (K. Berndt). The lectures provided remarkable information about theory and practical application of the results achieved.

The symposium may be evaluated very positively. Its organizers prepared a pleasant atmosphere both for the sessions and friendly discussions of specialists and thus the meeting completely fulfilled its objective. We may wish for this Symposium to become a starting point for similar events in future years.

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