

G. Hartwich: Die Tierwelt Deutschlands. 62. Teil. I. Rhabditida und Ascaridida*VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena 1975, 256 pp., 97 Figs. Price 75,- M*

Dr. G. Hartwich, the eminent German helminthologist from the Humboldt Museum in Berlin (GDR), has compiled the results of his many-years' scientific work in this volume. It is devoted to the systematics, morphology and biology of nematodes of the orders Rhabditida and Ascaridida. As it follows from the title of this series of monographs, also this one is dealing with the nematode fauna parasitizing definitive hosts in Central Europe. However, the exact taxonomic revisions of some species and groups of nematodes performed by the author in the past and included in this book, as well as the large number of nematodes of almost cosmopolitan distribution, make it possible to apply this work for a much wider area.

The introductory chapters (pp. 9—25) dealing with the anatomy and morphology of nematodes are followed by the systematic arrangement and specific determination of these helminths. Also general data on their biology (ecology and invasive cycles) are given, stressing the economic importance of some species acting as vectors of nematodoses of man and domestic animals.

A key to the subclasses, orders and superfamilies of the class Nematoda opens the special part. Then follows a systematic survey of the species belonging to Rhabditida (pp. 33—53) and Ascaridida (pp. 53—207), including brief characteristics of subclasses, orders, superfamilies, families, subfamilies and genera. The keys make it possible to place the nematodes exactly in the respective systematic categories. The generic diagnoses are followed by the keys to species of nematodes parasitizing definitive hosts in Central Europe. For each species are given the basic synonyms, descriptions and illustrations of most important morphological

characters, and data on the definitive hosts and geographic distribution. If the life-cycles are available, they are dealt with in detail.

The monograph comprises 14 species of the order Rhabditida belonging to 4 genera and 2 families (Rhabdiasidae and Strongyloididae). The order Ascaridida includes 78 species of 38 genera and 13 families (Ascarididae, Toxocaridae, Anisakidae, Acanthocheilidae, Goetzidae, Oxyuridae, Cosmocercidae, Ascaridiidae, Heterakidae, Quimperiidae, Subulascariidae, Kathliniidae and Subuluridae). In the Supplements (pp. 243—247), recently published data on the genus *Pseudanisakis* and species composition and synonymy of European species of the genus *Syphacia* are added.

The third part of the book is an alphabetic list of definitive hosts and their nematodes. This list comprises 55 species of fishes, 18 amphibians, 6 reptiles, 120 birds and 69 mammals.

A list of literary sources is also attached, including 661 original scientific papers, compendia and monographs and further 12 references in Supplements. The literature cited fully covers the treated subject.

Both the arrangement and contents of this volume should be highly appreciated. The specific diagnoses and keys are very helpful for the exact and speedy determination of nematodes of the orders Rhabditida and Ascaridida parasitizing vertebrates in Central Europe. Other data concerning the systematics, biology and distribution of these nematodes enhance the scientific and practical value of the book. It will be of interest not only to parasitologists but also to veterinarians and zoologists from research institutes and universities.

Dr. V. Baruš, D.Sc. and
Prof. Dr. B. Ryšavý, D.Sc.

50th birthday of Doc. MVDr. Karel Blažek, C.Sc.

Doc. MVDr. Karel Blažek, C.Sc., Head of the Department of Histology and Pathology of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, Secretary of the Veterinary Section of the Society of Pathological Anatomists of the Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně, member of the World Association of Veterinary Pathologists and Czechoslovak Parasitological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, celebrated his 50th birthday on 10th April 1976.

Dr. Blažek was born in Brno, where he passed the secondary school and graduated at the Veterinary University in 1951. Since this year up to 1960 he worked in the State Scientific Veterinary Institute in Prague, as head of the Department of Pathological Anatomy and Histology. During one year (1960—1961) he headed the District Veterinary Diagnostic Station in Prague. In 1961 he started to work at the Department of Parasitology of the Institute of