

D. A. Azimov: Schistosomatidy zhivotnykh i cheloveka (Schistosomatids of animals and man). Izdat. FAN. Uzbek. SSR, Tashkent 1975, 152 pp., 52 figs. Price 1.06 Rb.

The trematodes of the order Schistosomatida are a numerous group of helminths with characteristic morphology and ecology. They are of great practical importance as causative agents of widely distributed and significant helminthoses of man and domestic animals. The compilation of recent data on the systematics and morphology of these trematodes in the present volume is therefore considered an initiative and valuable effort. The author of the book, Prof. D. A. Azimov, Director of the Scientific and Research Institute of Veterinary in Samarkand-Tailak, is an eminent helminthologist and devoted many years of intensive scientific activities to the study of this group of trematodes.

The monograph is written in a clear and concise manner. In the introduction (pp. 3–5) the author presents his intentions and some general data on the theoretical and practical importance of these trematodes. The results of systematical studies of other authors, as Price (1929), Szidat (1939), Skrjabin (1951), Yamaguti (1958) and some others, are arranged from a historical view in the second chapter (pp. 6–14). The classifications proposed by these authors are critically discussed. In the third chapter (pp. 14–23) the author expresses his own views on the systematics of this trematode group. He divides the order Schistosomatida (Skrjabin et Schulz, 1937) Azimov, 1970 into two suborders, Schistosomatata and Sanguinicolata and gives the diagnoses and keys to the suborders and families.

The most extensive chapter of this volume is devoted to the characteristics of systematic groups of Schistosomatida (pp. 23–131). The first part of this chapter contains a survey of individual taxons of the suborder Schistosomatata (pp. 23–219), with the diagnoses of families, subfamilies and genera, including the keys. For each genus are given brief historical surveys and keys to the species. Then follow individual species with data on their syno-

nymy, definitive hosts, intermediate hosts, localization in the definitive host and geographical distribution. For the species which were not included in the monograph by Skrjabin K. I. (Trematody zhivotnykh i cheloveka, Tom V. Izdat. AN SSSR, Moscow, pp. 1–622, 1951), original descriptions and some redescrptions including illustrations of the most important morphological characters have been adopted and brief notes on their life-cycles were added. The author mentions 13 genera including 91 species (47 of them are described). In the second part of this chapter dealing with the suborder Sanguinicolata (pp. 129–131) the author presents only diagnoses of the families (Sanguinicolidae and Spirorchidae) and key to the subfamilies. For a more detailed information the monograph by Skrjabin (1951) is referred to. In the conclusions (pp. 131–133) the author summarizes the results of a reconstruction of the system of Schistosomatida, which were published earlier (Azimov D. A., Zool. zh. 69: 1126–1131, 1970), and offers a short hypothesis about the evolution of these trematodes.

The list of references (pp. 134–152) includes citations of 116 original scientific papers of Soviet authors and 305 papers of foreign authors. The foreign references comprise only the papers published after 1950 and of the older ones only those which were not included in the monograph by Skrjabin (1951). The citations of foreign authors are not uniform from formal view.

The monograph by Prof. D. A. Azimov summarizes the results obtained during the last 25 years and is therefore a valuable contribution to the general survey and systematics of this order of trematodes. It helps the reader in quick orientation and exact determination of the species included. Both the contents and arrangement fully correspond to the demands of theoretical studies, as well as of human and veterinary praxis.

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