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F. Dusbábek, B. Rosický: Argasid ticks (Argasidae, Ixodoidea) of Czechoslovakia.

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The book is the first comprehensive treatise on soft ticks (Argasidae) in the territory of Czechoslovakia and follows the line of systematic research of the superfamily Ixodoidea carried out at the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences for more than two decades. It is primarily based on the authors' material collected by different methods in various places where the argasids might be expected to occur (hen and pigeon houses, lofts of dwellings, churches and bell towers, tree-hollows, rock crevices, caves, nests of small mammals and birds, shelters of bats), and from animals considered to be hosts of argasids. Also material collected by other investigators and available published data were revised.

In the territory of Czechoslovakia the occurrence of 4 species, namely *Argas* (*A.*) *reflexus*, *A.* (*A.*) *vulgaris*, *A.* (*Persicargas*) *persicus* and *A.* (*Carios*) *vespertilionis*, was proved; on this occasion *A. vulgaris* was found in this country for the first time. *A. reflexus* was primarily found in the western part of the Republic, mostly in connection with the occurrence of wild pigeons inhabiting the lofts of large city buildings, including churches and historical edifices. From these places the argasids of this species may penetrate in pigeon houses of the urban type, or they may invade human dwellings, as the authors' observations stated in the book, testify. This species, however, is absent in rural pigeon houses.

A. vulgaris was found in similar conditions and in connection with the occurrence of wild pigeons in four places of the central and eastern part of the Republic. The parasite of fowl, *A. persicus*, was discovered only in one locality of southern Slovakia. The authors were well informed about the distribution of this species in Czechoslovakia from a number of papers published earlier. They consider the present sporadic occurrence to be a result of long-term

use of insecticides in poultry farms; surely it also results from the changes which have taken place in the villages, involving removal of unsuitable hen houses where argasids occurred, as documented by photographs attached to the publication.

Detailed descriptions are given of all developmental stages of the species found. In the case of *A. reflexus* and *A. persicus*, whose life cycle was studied in laboratory, all descriptions are original and based on material from Czechoslovakia. With next two species original descriptions are given of developmental stages found and added are published data concerning imagoes of *A. vespertilionis* as well as data, obtained by comparing materials from abroad (larvae of *A. vulgaris* from the Tadjik SSR). The result of morphological studies is a detailed key to subgenera and to species of all developmental stages of the genus *Argas* reported from the Czechoslovak territory to date.

The book includes data on the life cycles of argasids discussed, their hosts, requirements for environmental conditions and on their epidemiological and epizootological importance. The authors also consider the possibility of other species occurring in Czechoslovak territory, either due to importation by migratory birds or due to transportation of domestic animals or gradual penetration along the valleys of some rivers. Of the subfamily Argasinae the following species are considered: *A.* (*A.*) *tridentatus*, *A.* (*A.*) *macrostigmatus*, *A.* (*P.*) *streptopelia*, *A.* (*S.*) *transgaripepinus*; of the subfamily Ornithodorinae the species *Alveonatus lahorensis*, *Ornithodoros* (*P.*) *verrucosus* and *O.* (*P.*) *erraticus*.

The reviewed monograph has been elaborated at a high professional level. It will appeal to attentive readers in Czechoslovakia and adjoining countries of Central Europe as well.

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