

XV International Congress of Entomology

The XV International Congress of Entomology organized by the Entomological Society of America and the National Academy of Sciences, was held in Washington between August 19 and 27, 1976. Its president was Dr. C. W. Sabrosky and it was attended by more than 2300 specialists from 63 countries. All sessions took place at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

The Congress opened by the plenary meeting at which Prof. T. R. Southwood delivered a paper entitled "Entomology and mankind". The proceedings were divided into 13 sections: 1 — Systematics, 2 — Genetics, 3 — Physiology and Biochemistry, 4 — Toxicology, 5 — Ecology, 6 — Behaviour, 7 — Social insects and apiculture, 8 — Biological control, 9 — Medical and veterinary entomology, 10 — Agricultural entomology and pest management, 11 — Forest entomology, 12 — Stored products and structural insects, 13 — Pesticide development, management and regulation. Within the sections also a number of symposia was organized, which were devoted to special topics, and there were various informal conferences, workshops and panel discussions. The papers were presented either in full text, by title and abstract only or in poster presentations accompanied by exhibit. During the congress also a number of films with entomological bias was shown and an exhibition of scientific literature, professional illustrations and laboratory apparatuses was arranged.

The parasitological problems were represented primarily in Section 9, including the following symposia: Sensory basis of behaviour in blood-feeding insects, Ecology of mosquitoes and ectoparasites, Systematics and biology of *Curatopogonidae*, Insect-borne disease problems associated with water and land resources development, Changing patterns in the transmission of arthropod-borne diseases. The symposium Ecology and evolution of *Anoplura* and *Mallophaga* was included in Section 5. Many valuable papers referring to the problems of control of parasitic arthropods were read in Section 13 where the following symposia were held: Pesticide residues and their relationship to pesticide management, Pesticide development, Pesticide safety, Agricultural pests in international commerce, Pesticide resistance, The role of application techniques in respect to safe and efficient pest control, An international

view of the significance and the control of urban pests. Numerous papers dealing with parasitic arthropods, primarily mosquitoes, were delivered in Section 2.

The congressional papers were of two types. Short communications dealt with single results in research, long contributions summarized results obtained, bringing general aspects of particular problem and outlining prospects of relevant trends as well as future research programmes. It became evident that the problems of natural focus diseases and their vectors are of paramount importance at present. New diseases transmitted by arthropods are still being discovered and even with well-known diseases some new features in the character of their transmissive cycles are revealed involving the consequences in epidemiology. The presented papers paid attention to most varied aspects of entomological involvement in this complex of problems requiring a wide and thorough study in ecology, ethology, phenology, physiology, genetics, morphology, distribution, evolution, parasite-host relationships and the role played by individual species or groups of parasitic arthropods in the dissemination of different pathogenic agents. Very urgent are also problems of the control of arthropods due to increasing resistance both in particular species and to particular insecticides. It is necessary to seek new ways and methods of control, new application forms of pesticides which would be highly effective against pests on one hand and harmless to other components of ecosystems on the other.

The proceedings of the congress were closed by a final plenary session at which Prof. T. R. Odhiambo read a paper entitled "Entomology and the problems of the tropical world". The next congress will be held in 1980 in Tokio.

The XV International Congress of Entomology in Washington provided a good survey of the present state and prospects of this scientific discipline. At sectional sessions, during formal and informal meetings it facilitated fruitful discussions among its participants. Its organization was excellent and the fact that all meetings took place in one building, was a great advantage. There is no doubt that the congress contributed to a further wide development of entomology.

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