

V. P. Sharpilo: Paraziticheskie chervi presmykayushchikhsya fauny SSSR (Parasitic worms of reptiles of the fauna of the USSR). Publ. House Naukova dumka, Kiev 1976, 234 pp. Price 2. 94 R.

In this monograph Prof. V. P. Sharpilo presents to the scientific public a summary of results of his many years' investigations of helminth fauna of Reptilia from the territory of the USSR. Besides his own materials collected during field expeditions to various regions, the author revised also materials obtained by other Soviet helminthologists. This work is an exact synthesis of many partial and original data.

In the introductory chapters (pp. 3–12) the aim of the work is formulated by the author, and a historical survey of the literature concerning this subject and published in the USSR is attached. The following short chapter (pp. 13–14) includes a list of examined material (the author himself carried out 3,320 complete helminthological dissections and used the results of 452 dissections carried out by other authors).

The most comprehensive chapter of the book is a systematic survey of helminths of reptiles (pp. 15–240). One species of the class Aspidogastrea, 42 species of the class Digenea, 2 species of the class Monogenea, 18 species of the class Cestoda, 15 species of the class Acanthocephala and 126 species of the class Nematoda are registered in the helminth fauna of the USSR. The species are arranged in a systematic order and for each species are given the synonyms, list of hosts, location, distribution in the USSR and outside this country. A total of 145 species are redescribed in detail on the basis of the author's material. Important morphological characters are documented in 118 tables. Most of the figures are original. Original descriptions of seven nematode species new for the science are included (*Rhabdias agkistrodontis*, *R. elaphac*

R. kurilensis, *Strongyloides darevskiyi*, *Spaulinogodon phrynocephali*, *S. pseudoeremiasii* and *S. annaei*). This chapter contains also keys for the determination of the genera and species and brief data about the biology of the helminths.

The following chapter (pp. 241–259) is devoted to the evaluation of the species composition of helminth fauna in individual host families. Three families of the order Testudines, six families of the order Sauria and six families of the order Serpentes are analyzed from this view. Then follows a list of reptile species living in the territory of the USSR (pp. 260–262). Of the total number of 147 mentioned species of hosts, 113 have been examined for helminths.

The bibliography (pp. 263–278) comprises citations of 252 original scientific papers and monographs by Soviet authors, and 194 papers by foreign authors. This list of references is complete and contributes to the high quality of the volume. An index of Latin names of genera and species of helminths is useful for a better orientation in the text (pp. 279–283).

The monograph by Prof. V. P. Sharpilo is the first comprehensive treatment of the helminth fauna of Reptilia in the immense territory of the USSR. No book of this extent and dealing with a similar subject has ever been published in the world helminthological literature. The author succeeded in creating a work of great scientific value which is another success achieved by the Soviet helminthological school. It is indispensable to specialists in helminthology and herpetology, but it is also recommended to other zoologists as a valuable source of information.

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