

A. A. Smogorzhevskaya: Gelminty vodoplavayushchikh i bolotnykh ptits fauny Ukrayiny. (Helminths of water and marsh birds of the fauna of the Ukraine.) Publ. House Naukova dumka, Kiev 1976, 416 pp., 74 Figs., 20 Tables. Price 2.70 Rb.

The ecological group of birds bound to water and marshy environment and a complex study of their helminth fauna is the subject of the comprehensive monograph by Prof. A. A. Smogorzhevskaya, senior research officer of the Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. The author solves those questions mostly on the basis of her own material collected at dissection of 1,511 birds belonging to 91 species.

The book is divided into five basic chapters. The most important is the first one (pp. 16–244) devoted to the systematics of the found helminth species. A total of 580 helminth species are recorded. The author recovered 240 species, and 443 species of the total number reported from the Ukrainian territory were available in the collections of the Institute. For each species are given the synonyms, definitive hosts, infection rate, localization, locality and date of finding, as well as concise data about the intermediate and reservoir hosts. Of great importance are the keys to the genera and species named in the monograph. The data on the geographical distribution of helminths are also added.

The second chapter (pp. 245–284) deals with a faunistic analysis of the recorded helminth species in relation to eleven orders of definitive hosts. The author sets groups of helminths characteristic for individual orders of definitive hosts. She stressed the importance of water and marsh birds in maintaining high incidence of some helminth species. Also the list of definitive hosts and their helminths hitherto reported from the territory of the Ukraine (pp. 379–396) should be considered a part of this chapter.

In the third chapter (pp. 285–324) entitled Ecological analysis, the helminth fauna in relation to the food of hosts, their age, sex, migration and seasons is discussed. The zoogeographical analysis in Chapter 4 (pp. 325–347) offers well-arranged data about the distribution of 478 helminth species (of the total number of 580 species included in the monograph). All hitherto available records are considered and the areas of helminth distribution are assessed in relation to the distribution of their definitive hosts. This approach enabled the author to

make some conclusions about the formation of helminth fauna of water and marsh birds in the Ukrainian SSR.

The significance of this group of definitive hosts in the distribution and maintenance of causative agents of some important helminthoses of fish, water fowl, some mammals and man is discussed in the last chapter (pp. 347–354). The aspect of natural focality is stressed with some helminthoses, since of the total number of 580 helminth species reported from this ecological group of hosts, 107 species are common for the wild-living birds and water fowl.

A list of references (pp. 357–378) includes citations of 459 original papers and monographs; 359 of them are in direct relation to the subject and region under investigation. The attached list of Russian and Latin names of the intermediate and reservoir hosts (pp. 398–399) and index of Latin names (pp. 400–415) help to better orientation in the text. The book includes also original illustrations showing important morphological characters of some of the helminth species.

Of a large series of monographs written by Soviet authors this volume is the first one dealing with the helminth fauna of water and marsh birds. The species spectrum of helminth fauna of these hosts in the Ukrainian SSR is very wide and gives evidence of the detailed knowledge of this territory.

The author's endeavour to summarize numerous data available on this subject, as well as her own original approach to the solution of the problem, are highly appreciated. Of great value are the synthetizing chapters, as faunistic and ecological analyses, zoogeographical evaluation, and notes about the epizootiology and epidemiology.

The book by A. A. Smogorzhevskaya is an important work of the Soviet helminthological school contributing to the development of this branch of science. It is recommended not only to specialists in parasitology, but it will be helpful also to ornithologists, ichthyologists, hydrobiologists and workers in veterinary practice.

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