

**L. M. Pinchuk: Gamazovye kleshchi mlekopitayushchikh Dniestrovsko-Prut'skogo mezhdurechya (Gamasiid mites of mammals from the territory between the Prut and Dniester rivers). Publ. House Shtiintsa, Kishinev 1976, 174 pp. Price 0.97 R.**

The author of the publication, L. M. Pinchuk of the Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR, summarizes in her book the most recent results of the studies of fauna and ecology of gamasiid mites in the territory between the Prut and Dniester rivers occupying almost the whole territory of the Moldavian SSR. On the basis of the comprehensive material originating from 3,703 hosts and 151 nests of small mammals the author presents a survey of fauna of gamasiid mites of Moldavia parasitizing mammals, discusses the host-parasite relationships and evaluates the material also from other ecological aspects. A good knowledge of the literature enables the author to compare her results with those of other authors from different regions.

The introduction is devoted to the epidemiological and epizootological significance of gamasiid mites with a special regard to the territory of the Moldavian SSR and adjacent areas. A survey of 51 species of examined hosts and their nests with the data about the numbers of examined and infected specimens, as well as numbers and species of mites collected from them, is presented in the chapter Material and Methods. This chapter includes also a very extensive tabular survey of all mite species found on individual hosts, the incidence and intensity of infection, density and maximum numbers of mites on the hosts. This table covering 30 pages serves as a basis of further ecological evaluations and is very useful for a good orientation.

The main part of the volume (pp. 45–132) is a systematic survey of 129 species of gamasiid mites collected by the author and representing the fauna of gamasiid mites of Moldavia. About one fourth of the species are described and illustrated, both males and females, whereas the data about the distribution in the USSR and Europe are given for all species. The findings in the Moldavian SSR are described in detail and evaluated from ecological view. In this chapter, not only a picture of gamasiid mite fauna in Moldavia is presented, but also

the circumstances of findings and particularities in their occurrence in this territory are mentioned. The author did not accept some most modern taxonomic views and many species are mentioned under the names now generally considered to be synonyms (e.g., *Laelaspis oratus* instead of *Hypoaspis astronomicus* on p. 99, or *Spinolaclaps jaksoni* (sic!) instead of *Ichoronyssus scutatus* on p. 128 etc.). The data about the distribution of individual species in Europe are not always complete and the Latin names of some species are not always conforming to the rules of grammar.

The last part of the book is devoted to the fauna of gamasiid mites in individual host species and their nests. There are data about the hosts examined, conditions of their collections and also more detailed data about the structure of micropopulations of individual mite species on hosts and their nests, evaluation of the dominance etc. The major part of ecological observations of the whole material is summarized in this chapter and therefore it is the most valuable section of the book. The compiled facts are an excellent material for the solution of some problems in parasite-host relationship, enlargement of the distribution area of the parasite by the substitution of one host species by another etc. Although the author does not solve these questions directly, her observations and conclusions may considerably contribute to it.

The list of references is rather comprehensive and gives evidence of the author's good knowledge of the literature. However, the papers of foreign authors should be cited more exactly.

The book by L. M. Pinchuk on gamasiid mites of Moldavia is one of the few works comprising besides a taxonomic survey of the mite fauna also a detailed ecological evaluation of extraordinarily large material. It is of great value as a basis and comparative material for further zoogeographical and ecological studies and enables other authors to come to more principled conclusions.

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