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M. S. Davydova: Gamazovye kleshchi semeystva Parasitidae Zapadnoy Sibiri (Gamasid mites of the family Parasitidae from Western Siberia).

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The knowledge of members of the family Parasitidae, especially in regions outside Europe, is still very incomplete. Due to a great intra-specific variability it is very difficult to make a differential diagnosis of forms closely related to one another in the morphology but differing in the bionomy. Also the synonymy of some species described earlier remains still uncleared. It is therefore useful to study these mites in limited areas of certain regions and the results obtained use as a basis of general studies.

The author collected material for this monograph in various regions of Western Siberia during 14 years. She examined more than 3500 samples and collected more than 36 000 mites of the family Parasitidae belonging to 5 genera and 30 species. The previously fragmentary knowledge of these mites from the given territory was thus considerably extended. The present book deals particularly with the systematics and morphology. After a short preface and introduction follows a survey of described taxons and the proper systematical part. The author gives keys to the determination of females, males and deutonymphs. The part dealing with individual genera and species includes also keys to the respective stages within genera or subgenera. For each species is given its syno-

nymy, description of female, male and deutonymph, if all these stages are known, and a survey of localities. The book concludes with a table showing the occurrence of individual species in different landscape zones and different environment: various types of forest litter and surface soil layer, nests of mammals and birds and their inhabitants, manure, rotting plant debris and saprophagous beetles, dead bodies of vertebrates and necrophagous beetles, humble-bees and their nests. A great part of the book (pp. 118—199) is devoted to figures. There are 82 tables including the drawings of 472 general views of dorsal and ventral parts of body and other morphological details of mites. The figures are of good quality and supplement well the text.

Mites of the family Parasitidae are known to act in the soil biocenoses as regulators of the number of small arthropods. In the nests of vertebrates they feed on blood-sucking mites. They may also disseminate larvae of some parasitic nematodes and spores of parasitic fungi. Their epizootological significance consists just in these properties.

The book by M. S. Davydova is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of these mites in the territory of the USSR.

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