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Second seminar on the automatic data acquisition in ecology

During 25 and 26 April 1977 the second state-wide seminar entitled "Automatic data acquisition in ecology" was held at Liblice near Mělník, organized by the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Works Branch of the Czech Scientific and Technical Society attached to the Institute of the Theory of Information and Automation of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It was attended by 65 specialists from 12 institutes of the Czechoslovak and Slovak Academies of Sciences and 12 universities and institutions. A total of 23 papers were read and discussed by the participants.

Lectures of the seminar were divided into 4 parts according to the theme. The first part included methodical and organizational approaches to performance of biological field experiments, the second part concerned the questions of mathematical and statistical elaboration and evaluation of the data acquired and some program systems of computational technique. The third part dealt with the characteristics and qualities of different types of measuring apparatuses and their parts suitable for continual measurement. Concrete results were presented in the fourth part. Questions of parasitology and medical zoology were represented in papers dealing with the experience of the long-term field experiment evaluation of the life cycle of *Ixodes ricinus*, with mathematical and statistical characteristics of parasite-host relation of *Hypoderma bovis* in different

parts of its distribution, with the automatic observation of body temperature in hedgehog during hibernation, and with telemetric methods for studies of spacial activity in vertebrates. Also projection of films from the International Film Parade Ecofilm on the environment was of striking acceptance.

The seminar pursued with great success the similar one held for the first time in 1975. Once again research workers from various biological, technical and mathematical disciplines assembled in a joint meeting to discuss possible solution of problems in question. The problems of ecology proved to find their way even more from basic research sphere into practice in the connection with solution of problems of nourishment of population, its healthful development and protection of the environment. Automatic data acquisition is becoming an integral part of some research tasks of groups of problems mentioned above. Automation gives precision to data, saving of labour and increases the quality and quantity of views from which biological objects may be examined. Permanent attention to the development of its methodic point and acquaintance with results reached should be given in various institutes. As a result of positive estimation of the seminar by its participants it was recommended to continue in this tradition and to organize a similar meeting within 2 or 3 years.

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