

## The Third National Conference of Bulgarian Parasitologists

The Conference, organized by the Bulgarian Parasitological Society, was held from October 12–14, 1977 at Albena, a seaside resort of Bulgaria. The total enrolment was 255 persons and of these 65 were from foreign countries. Most numerous was the delegation from the U.S.S.R. (34 persons); of the remaining foreign countries represented at the conference there were delegates from Poland, Hungary, GDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, France, FRG, India. Czechoslovakia was represented by 6 delegates.

After the opening address by Professor P. Pavlov, corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, there were several contributions on general parasitology, and an account of a joint Czechoslovak-Bulgarian investigation of meningoencephalitis in sheep performed in SE-Bulgaria which resulted in the isolation of the virus Bhanja (Rosický, Pavlov). Then, the working programme of the delegates continued in 8 sections concerned with these topics: General helminthology, Arachnoentomology, Protozoology, Distribution, epidemiology and epizootiology of helminths, Immunological problems of helminthiases, Treatment of parasitic infections, Pathogenesis, clinic and diagnosis of helminthiases, Phytohelminthology.

As suggested by the headings of the individual sections, Bulgarian parasitologists were interested mainly in problems of helminthology and in this they continued in a tradition represented mainly by the late Professor Matov. In this field as well as in the field of arachnoentomology, a number of contributions provided evidence for a close collaboration of Bulgarian and Czechoslovak parasitologists; investigations of natural foci of infections have been based mainly on a close collaboration between Bulgarian parasitologists and members of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In recent years Bulgarian parasitologists have started to take an interest in problems of protozoology and in the development of this field they are greatly in favour of an increased collaboration with Czechoslovak protozoologists.

The majority of contributions delivered at the conference, were concerned with problems of parasitological diagnostics, the chemotherapy of parasitic infections and life cycles of helminths important in human and veterinary medicine. The congress languages were mainly Bulgarian and Russian, but also English. Numerous papers on protozoology were dealing with causative agents of important diseases of man (*Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Giardia intestinalis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Balantidium coli* and with the agents of leishmaniases). Attention was given also to malaria and its incidence in Bulgaria. Although most of the papers on veterinary protozoology were concerned with coccidioses, the subject of some of these were piroplasmoses. Helminthological papers were dealing with investigations of the helminth fauna of various hosts. Special attention was given to trematodes infecting animals of economic importance, to trichinellosis, helminthoses of sheep and to studies on cestodes of birds. The incidence of ascarid worms and control measures against them were the subject of a number of papers. A complex of papers were dealing with the serological diagnosis of helminthiases, notably echinococcosis. Papers on arachnoentomology referred to studies on the ectoparasite fauna of epizootologically important hosts, mainly rodents. Other studies were concerned with mosquitoes and synanthropic flies. A large number of papers read at the section of arachnoentomology, were concerned with mites and particularly with ticks and their importance in the transmission of virus infections.

The organizers of the conference succeeded in providing excellent working conditions in the individual sections and creating a pleasant and friendly atmosphere. The excursion to the Balchik and Kaliakra and two other social meetings helped to establish close contacts among the participants.

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