

## REFERENCES

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### S. M. Vaidova: *Gelminty ptits Azerbajijana* (Helminths of birds of Azerbaijan).

*Izdat. Elm, Baku 1978, 238 pp. Price 1.50 R.*

The book by Prof. S. M. Vaidova, scientific worker of the Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan S.S.R., belongs to a series of Soviet monographs dealing with regional faunistic complexes of helminths.

During 20 years' field investigations the author examined by helminthological dissection 2,168 birds of 116 species from almost all natural regions of Azerbaijan. A systematical evaluation of the collected material is a basis of the present monograph. Moreover, all hitherto published literary data on helminths of this host group and from this territory have been considered. The general theoretical and practical importance of similar monographs is stressed in the preface written by Prof. K. M. Ryzhikov.

The book consists of the introduction (pp. 6 to 8), historical survey of studies on helminths of domestic and wild birds of Azerbaijan (pp. 9—13) and taxonomical-systematical part (pp. 14 to 139). In the last part, which is the most extended chapter of the monograph, the helminth species are classified in classes, families and genera. The class Cestoidea comprises 126 species (of 2 orders, 12 families and 56 genera), Trematoda 242 species (of 3 orders, 26 families and 91 genera). Acanthocephala 28 species (of 2 orders, 4 families and 8 genera) and Nematoda 124 species (of 5 orders, 20 families and 48 genera). The monograph thus presents data on 522 species of helminths parasitic in birds of Azerbaijan S.S.R. In addition to the scientific names of helminths, also the names of their definitive hosts (in Russian) are given in almost all cases and orientation data on the incidence and intensity of infection and localities with a wider geographical determination of regions are added. The locali-

ties are schematically illustrated on a map (p. 14). The problems of systematic position and synonymy are discussed with some species.

Another comprehensive chapter contains a survey of helminth fauna of individual host species (pp. 140—196). This part is arranged according to the bird orders. It includes data on the helminth fauna of 195 bird species of 16 orders (scientific names of hosts are in Latin) and on the incidence of helminth infection both in individual species and in the whole order. This chapter is valuable for a wider helminthological and geographical analysis.

In the conclusion (pp. 197—206) the author characterizes spectra of helminth fauna in various types of land in Azerbaijan. Both the species spectrum and difference related to the environment of the definitive host are evaluated. For each region are given the characteristic species and groups of species. This chapter is also very useful. The attached list of references (pp. 207—224) comprises 158 papers of Soviet and foreign authors. An index of Latin names of families and genera of helminths (pp. 225—235) and contents (pp. 236—238) serve for better orientation in the text.

The book by S. M. Vaidova gives the international scientific public a sound information on the helminth fauna of birds in the whole Azerbaijan S.S.R. It is written in a concise and clear manner. It is extremely valuable for theoretical helminthology, particularly geography of helminths and is recommended not only to parasitologists and ornithologists, but also to specialists in veterinary medicine and game-keeping.

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