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V. S. Gaponova, O. F. Grobov: Kleshchevye bolezni pchel (Mite diseases of bees). Rosselchozizdat, Moskva 1978, 94 pp., Price 20 kop.

A dangerous spread of varroatosis has attracted attention to mites infesting beehives throughout the world and several works devoted to this topic have appeared lately. Two experienced Soviet authors summarized the present store of knowledge on mites in beehives in a little booklet designed primarily for veterinarians and zootechnicians. This fact marks the scope of each chapter, the coverage of acarapodosis and varroatosis having been allotted the major part of the book. Particularly important is the chapter dealing with the latter disease including all known data on its causative agent, the mite *Varroa jacobsoni*. The subsequent chapter is concerned with pyemotosis indiscriminately supposed to be caused by the species *Pyemotes ventricosus*. Also discussed in the book are several species on which there is

no detailed knowledge so far explaining their role in the beehive. It is *Melittiphis alvearius* and two species recently described from south Asia, *Eugarroa sinhai* and *Tropilaelaps clareae*, which are related to *Varroa* and have a similar occurrence, not excluding the possibility of a similar dissemination. Another chapter is devoted to mites which may be incriminated as pests of bee storages. A list of mites found in beehives in the territory of the USSR is appended at the end of the book. Since 1927 a total of 112 different mites have been found there and this number is quite high although some of them are species typical of vertebrate nests, of the group Oribatei etc. The book is very well organized, contains valuable data and therefore will be widely used far beyond the borders of the USSR.

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