

II. Congressus Theriologicus Internationalis, Brno, Czechoslovakia

The Second International Congress of Theriology was held in Brno, June 20–27, 1978, presided by Academician J. Kratochvíl and attended by almost 600 scientists from 36 countries. It was organized by the Institute of Vertebrate Zoology and the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

The gala opening of the Congress and formal welcoming of guests took place at the Janáček Theatre. The sessions were held in the halls of the Brno Exhibitions and Fairs grounds, and were divided into nine sections: Paleontology, Zoogeography, Systematics and phylogenesis, Ecology, Applied theriology, Protection of mammals, Game research and wildlife management, Morphology, Behaviour. A parallel programme of 21 special interest groups and poster presentations was organized in addition to the sections.

The section on applied theriology was concerned primarily with problems of parasitology and natural focality of diseases. The papers covering this field dealt with the following topics: Actual problems of medical theriology (V. V. Kucheruk), Mycoses of free-living mammals in Central and South-Eastern Europe (M. Otčenášek et al.), Parasitic arthropods of small terrestrial mammals in artificial nests (P. Rödl and M. Daniel), Seasonal changes of Diptera attacks on horses in south-western Slovakia (J. Halgoš et al.), Classification of vertebrates as hosts of viruses (V. Bárdoš and B. Rosický), Mammals as sources of ectoparasites in towns (V. Černý and B. Rosický), Ecological relations of warble flies to their hosts (J. Minář), Small mammals of the High Tatra Mts. as hosts of fleas (J. Ryba et al.), Reaction of the golden hamsters to the tick bite (J. Nosek), Ticks and fleas of gerbils in Mongolia (M. Kiefer and V. S. Lobachev),

Small mammals and their helminths in insular ecosystems and in the Island of Meda Grossa (S. Mas-Coma; S. Mas-Coma and C. Feliu), Structure of helminth fauna of micromammals in different biotopes (J. Prokopič), Circulation of cestodes of man, domestic and fur animals (F. Tenora), Earth constructions as natural foci of diseases in cultural cenoses (I. Grulich), Bank vole populations in natural foci of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (E. V. Ryltseva and Yu. A. Myasnikov), Potential mammalian reservoirs of viral hemorrhagic fever in southern Sudan (A. A. Arata and B. Johnson), Hibernation of hedgehogs and virus infection (V. Danieľová et al.), Experimental transmission of the Ťahyňa virus among wild rabbits by *Aedes vexans* (P. Rödl et al.), Experimental infection of polecats and beech martens by the Ťahyňa virus (P. Rödl et al.).

During professional excursions participants of the Congress had the opportunity of visiting some research centres in South Moravia, important paleontological localities, well-known pheasantry and game preserves, and became acquainted with natural conditions in this region. Photographical exhibition on mammals, their life and environment and projection of scientific films received a positive response.

The congress in Brno successfully continued the work of a similar meeting of specialists held in Moscow four years ago. The present theriological problems were widely discussed and personal contacts were established. The problems concerning parasitology and medical zoology fitted well within the framework of the proceedings. The participants made their farewells with warm feelings and are looking forward to their next meeting at the Third International Congress to be held in Finland.

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