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Received 12 May 1978.

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N. N. Kharitonova, Yu. A. Leonov: Omskaya gemorraghicheskaya likhoradka. (The Omsk hemorrhagic fever). *Publ. House Nauka, Sibirskoe otdelenie, Novosibirsk 1978, 222 pp., 29 Figs., 61 Tables. Price 2.60R.*

The history of the Omsk hemorrhagic fever (OHF) dates from the beginning of the forties, when cases of a febrile disease accompanied by hemorrhages were reported under different diagnoses by local physicians. The disease was described as a distinct nosological unit in 1946—1947. The virus was first isolated both from ticks and patients in 1947. In the subsequent three decades the research of different aspects of this disease with natural foci in the territory of the Soviet Union received great attention.

The reviewed monograph has a subtitle "Ecology of causative agent, epizootology". These are the problems primarily dealt with in the book on the basis of original materials obtained by the authors in the Novosibirsk region. Epidemiology, clinic and pathology of the disease in man will be dealt with in another monograph. The present volume is divided into 7 chapters. Chapter 1 is concerned with biocenotic characteristics of OHF natural foci with special regard to the area under study, contains a survey of species composition of vertebrates and discusses their distribution in different biotopes and ecological interrelations. Chapter 2 deals with the epizootological situation in water reservoirs in different regions, discusses spontaneous infection in different small mammals and immunological response to the contact with virus in particular vertebrate groups. Chapter 3 characterizes the OHF virus from the aspect of morphology, chemical composition, possible cultivation in vitro, hemagglutination activity and pathogenicity. The extensive Chapter 4 is devoted to the susceptibility of different vertebrates primarily rodents, to the OHF virus, particularly of the introduced species — the muskrat. Chapter 5 deals with the importance of the water vole in the ecology of the OHF virus, with the dynamics of mass occurrence of this species, latent infection and its activation. Chapter 6 is concerned with routes of infection which is transmitted either by various vectors (ticks, mites, fleas, hematophagous Diptera) or spread by alimentary-aquatic route. The last chapter discusses the origin and present situation in OHF natural foci, and prospects of their sanitation. The final section of the book summarizes the most important data obtained. The last 25 pages contain a list of literature used. It is to be regretted, however, that there is no index at the end of the book.

The authors demonstrated natural infection with the OHF virus in 11 species of small mammals of the Novosibirsk region. Only one of them, namely the muskrat, proved to be highly susceptible and sensitive. The OHF epizootics in populations of this species cause mass deaths of the animals. However, the water vole is the main source of infection, maintaining the virus in local natural foci without any symptoms of disease. The activation of latent infections by unfavourable environmental factors is of great importance to the generation of epizootics. The most important vector and reservoir of OHF is the tick *Dermacentor reticulatus*, but the infection may be also transmitted by contact, aerogenous or alimentary-aquatic route.

The authors compiled many valuable data on the ecology of OHF pathogen and on biocenotic interrelations in its natural foci as well. The material is well organized logically and suitably accompanied with numerous tables and figures. Ample literature also evidences the extent of research done on OHF. On the whole, the monograph may be regarded as an excellent work in the field of research on natural foci of diseases which will provide the reader with a very good picture of the given problems.

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