

Fourth International Congress of Parasitology

The Fourth International Congress of Parasitology, held in Warsaw from August 19 to 25 1978, was organized and sponsored by the Committee for Parasitology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Parasitological Society. Prof. W. Michailow was the President of the Congress. There was a total attendance of about 1 200 persons representing some 83 countries. The delegation of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague (16 participants) was headed by Academician B. Rosický, Director of the Institute. In total, Czechoslovakia was represented by 37 delegates of whom several were requested to act as chairmen for the individual sessions.

The programme of the Congress was divided into 8 principal sections covering important parasitological problems and 16 round table meetings of special interest:

A — Biology, genetics and evolution of parasitic organisms, B — Morphology and taxonomy of parasitic organisms, C — Parasitic infections of economic and social importance, D — Therapy and prophylaxis in parasitic infections, E — Immunology in parasitic infections, F — Physiology of parasites and pathophysiology in parasitic infections, G — Epidemiological problems of vector-host and intermediate hosts, H — Environmental parasitology and geographical distribution. Round table — special interest

1. The impact of animal husbandry on the epidemiology of helminth diseases in domestic ruminants;
2. The use of radiation-attenuated organisms in the control of human diseases;
3. Cysticercosis /taeniasis and echinococcosis/hydatidosis prevention and control. Joint FAO/UNEP/WHO Meeting;
4. Infra-specific variation in human parasites;
5. Immunosuppression in parasitology;
6. Monogenoidea, problems of their systematics, biology and ecology;
7. Ceratopogonidae — systematics, biology, ecology, transmission and epidemiological importance;
8. Nervous system in parasites: Anatomy, physiology and pharmacology;
9. Parasitology in the "Man and Biosphere" — Programme;
10. Information services in parasitology;
11. Parasitological museums;
12. Terminology problems in parasitology;
13. Health education in parasitic disease control;
14. Periparturient transmission of parasites;
15. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature;
16. International Commission on Trichinellosis.

In addition to the scientific programme, an excursion was arranged to the Zakład parazytolodii, Polish Academy of Sciences.

In preparing the Congress the organizers abandoned the hitherto traditional practice at large-scale international scientific events, of dividing the programme into particular sections according to systematic parasite groups because such a division could not serve the present needs any more. The programme was arranged so as to emphasize the fact that parasitology is a science concerning parasitism, i.e. about parasite-host biological systems and not about particular systematic groups leading parasitic way of life.

The Fourth International Congress of Parasitology fulfilled a difficult and in many respects quite a new task. The invited leading papers of chairmen of particular sections, supplemented with contributions to discussion, summarized the present state of knowledge in the field of parasitology, main results of the research achieved since the last international congress, and pointed out long-term targets as well as concrete tasks to be implemented until the subsequent international congress of parasitology and to be verified during the event. The comprehensive papers stressed the urgent need for integration of different special branches of parasitology which would generate new trends of research, facilitate implementation of complex and team studies and contribute to a speedy application of new theoretical knowledge in practice and to the development of general biology as well. One-day-meeting of PARMAB II (Environmental parasitology as a component part of the UNESCO programme "Man and Biosphere"), was a sequel to PARMAB I held in Warsaw in 1975. The second PARMAB meeting resulted in suggestions for an international collaboration in this field which were accepted unanimously by all participating in it. At the special meeting devoted to problems of the parasitological terminology, suggestions were made for the establishment of a permanent international committee to which these problems should be submitted.

The Congress made it possible for each participant to meet specialists of his respective field of interest and to obtain comprehensive information about the results and the present standard of parasitological research which the Polish organizers will publish in a special volume.

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