

S. N. Boev (Ed.): Trikhinelly i trikhinellez (Trichinella and trichinellosis). Publ. House Nauka, Alma-Ata 1978, 243 pp., 55 Figs., 5 Tables. Price 3.60 R.

Professor S. N. Boev edited a monograph written by prominent Soviet specialists and dealing with trichinellosis which is one of the most dangerous zoonoses with a marked natural focality. Due to its pathology it is an important parasitic disease. According to literary data, about 28 millions of people suffer from trichinellosis, of them 21.1 millions in North America. At present it is the most dangerous disease with the Eskimos, occurring even in 95 % of their population.

The monograph by Soviet authors summarizes the most recent information on *Trichinella* and trichinellosis lately published in the Soviet and world literature. A historical survey of the causative agents of trichinellosis is given in the introduction. *Trichinella* was first reported in muscles of man by Paget (1835), but this author did not determine it. Later Owen (1835) described nematode larvae from the same material and named them *Trichina spiralis*.

The second chapter deals with the systematics, morphology and anatomy of *Trichinella*. Until 1972, trichinellosis was considered a disease caused by a single species, *Trichinella spiralis* (Owen, 1835), but the Soviet authors demonstrate by modern methods that there are four species of the genus *Trichinella* Railliet, 1896, namely *T. spiralis* (Owen, 1835), *T. nativa* Britov et Boev, 1972, *T. nelsoni* Britov et Boev, 1972, and *T. pseudospiralis* Garkavi, 1972. A detailed morphology and anatomy of these species is described. The identification of species which are difficult to differentiate on the basis of their morphology is discussed in the following chapter. These species differ in their circulation in nature and consequently they are of different epizootological and epidemiological importance. A genetical method for species identification is here worked out for the first time.

The new view brings new knowledge of the circulation of these four species of *Trichinella*: *T. spiralis* circulates in synanthropic biocenoses and only rarely penetrates into free nature, whereas *T. nativa*, *T. nelsoni* and *T. pseudospiralis* are members of natural biocenoses. *T. nativa* and *T. nelsoni* may become a source of infection to man, but there are few data available on *T. pseudospiralis*. The biology of all four species and their circulation in nature are dealt with in detail. The questions of their epidemiology and epizootology are discussed in the fifth chapter. The list of hosts and their geographic distribution covers all hitherto reported host species. The problems of *Trichinella* resistance to various factors of the environment and of the sterilization of meat infected with *Trichinella* are also considered. The authors analyse the source and ways of man infection with *Trichinella* and thus contribute to the knowledge of trichinellosis showing a more effective prophylaxis in the fight against this zoonosis.

The immunity during trichinellosis and its diagnosis in the life-time and post mortem are the topics of further chapters. The eighth chapter concerns the pathogeny and clinic of trichinellosis, the ninth one is devoted to the therapy. The last chapter deals with the prophylaxis of trichinellosis. The list of references comprises 301 papers by Soviet and 253 papers by foreign authors.

The monograph is intended for scientists and practitioners in human and veterinary medicine, gamekeepers, teachers and students of medicine, veterinary medicine, zoology and biology. Its complex and wide conception based on newest information and views makes it a significant contribution to the helminthological literature.

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