

**E. Piffl (Ed.): Proceedings of the 4th International Congress of Acarology
Saalfelden (Austria). Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest 1979, 752 pp., many Figs.**

At long last, after the delay of several years, the published Proceedings of the Fourth Congress of Acarology, held in Saalfelden (Austria), August 1974, have become available to the waiting professional public. First, there is the opening address of Prof. R. Schuster, the President of the Congress, followed by his presidential address on the Acarology in Austria. After these come two main papers, entitled "Of mites and men — the deans of American acarology" (T. A. Woolles) and "The present state of genetics of Acarina" (Yu. S. Balashov).

Next, the volume records papers presented in particular sections: 1 — Soil mites, 2 — Water mites, 3 — Plant mites, 4 — Stored product mites, 5 — Faunistic taxonomy of parasites, 6 — Host-parasite interactions, 7 — Parasites of medical and veterinary importance, 8 — Acari and epidemiology of diseases, 9 — Higher taxonomy and phylogeny, 10 — Physiology and biology, 11 — Genetics, 12 — Chemical control. A total of 89 papers were read in the sections and only two of them are included in the volume in the summary form. Czechoslovak scientists are authors of 11 papers.

The parasitological problems were covered in sections 5—8 and a few papers were also included in sections 9—12. Interesting contributions by authors from abroad were e.g.: Synhospitality and speciation in the Demodicidae (W. B. Nutting), Legs and pedipalp chaetotaxy in some Dermanyssidae and Ixodorrhynchidae (L. Solomon) in Section 5; Interaction between *Ornithocheyletia hallae* and *Microspora chalceae* (N. Haarlov, J. Mørøt) in Section 6; Association between house-dust mites and house-dust allergens (J. E. Bronswijk, L. Berrens) in Section 7; Current status of tick-borne typhus in the USA (W. Burgdorfer) in Section 8; Principles and methods in the taxonomy of Trombidida (Z. Feider), Evolution in mites and Arachnidea (L. van der Hammen), Archaic and specialized features

in structure and biology of mesostigmatid mites (N. G. Bregetova), Cladistic analysis of the Tri-gynaspida (J. B. Kethley) in Section 9; Fungal endosymbiont in a trombiculid mite (R. A. Kroman) in Section 10.

The section proceedings were followed up by five symposia focused on specific topical ranges: Form and function of astigmatic mouthparts, Nutrition of Acari, Nidicolous mites, Biological control, Fine structure. In the first and primarily in the fifth symposium the use of scanning electron microscopy in the studies on morphological structures was dealt with. Out of 30 papers presented here eight were contributed by Czechoslovak authors.

At the end of the book are included the Rules for the International Congress of Acarology and index to authors, containing list of papers arranged alphabetically according to the name of the first author, with his address.

At first sight, a marked feature of the publication is the use of two kinds of paper. At close scrutiny the reason for this is evident: the contributions containing scanning and electron photomicrographs as well as photographs were printed on glossy paper, and came out very well. The arrangement of papers in the index to authors, however, does not suggest the contents of particular sections and symposia. An index of Latin names would also help a better orientation. The book is attractively arranged and well produced. Among the inaccuracies overlooked disturbing are mainly misspellings in the names of taxons included in the titles of papers (p. 267, 749) or missing words in titles (p. 309, 746).

As a whole the Proceedings represent a book which very well indicates the range of problems and trends of present acarology. Specialists of different lines will find here a wealth of useful information. The publication will no doubt become one of the widely cited and sought-after works in acarology.

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