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The 8th Conference of the Parasitological Society of the German Democratic Republic 19.—22. 9. 1979 in Cottbus

The 8th national conference of the Parasitological Society of the German Democratic Republic was organized in Cottbus jointly by local centres of medical and veterinary hygiene services. The papers and discussion at the conference dealt with ecological problems of parasitology. Within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic the introductory paper of Prof. Hiepe reviewed the development of parasitology during that period. Other introductory papers were concerned with the basic concept of mathematical expression of the ecological system (A. Knijnenburg) and terminological problems in ecology and parasitology (L. Britz). The remaining papers were divided into three large groups.

In the first group of papers K. Odening at first defined the natural and cultivated landscape, including in these two categories everything except towns and villages, i.e. different types of natural landscape on one hand and agricultural lands on the other. In these types of terrain he determined the concept of ecological system and animal populations living in it. The clarification of the parasite population concept is important in the target control of mass parasitoses causing losses in animal production and troubles in public health. The main paper was devoted to parasite populations in aquatic environment (L. W. Reimer), with particular emphasis on the role of intermediate hosts. The paper by B. Rosický elucidated the role of the existence of natural focus and elementary foci of tick-borne meningo-encephalitis in Central Europe. J. Šlais reported on the focus of alveococcosis in the Šumava region, with the possible occurrence of this disease in the Thuringian Forest in the German Democratic Republic. A few papers were concerned with the incidence of parasites in some game fishes living in cold oceans and with their importance in the know-

ledge on consistent patterns in the biology of their hosts. Some species (e.g. of the genus *Anisakis*) are also important as incidental parasites of man.

The second group of papers was devoted to the problems of parasites in the ecological system of rural settlement. G. Gräfner demonstrated that changes in the animal production which becomes more industrialized in the German Democratic Republic, caused serious changes in epidemiology and epizootology of parasitoses as well. Many of them became less important, others remained on the same level, but quite a few rose to considerable economic significance (e.g. coccidioses of fowl and cattle, or ectoparasitozes of cattle). In the Schwerin region the outbreak of blackflies caused serious troubles in some areas and therefore the ecological conditions for the formation of their foci of occurrence were studied by local workers (Ch. Dorn and G. Gräfner). Likewise, the studies on the massive occurrence of domestic flies (*Musca domestica*) in stables indicated the importance of hygienic factors and reconstructions, while the chemical means of control may have only a secondary effect. The tests show that the resistance of the domestic fly to various insecticides is increasing, and so is the expenditure of insecticides, reaching tons and becoming expensive (P. Betke and H. Schuldtka). Successfull control of flies and their larval stages is aimed by laboratory and field experiments (F. Coch and R. Klunker).

The third group of papers was introduced by H. Engelbrecht who characterized the role and importance of human parasites in the ecological system of urban areas. Unlike ecological conditions in natural landscape, urban areas offer the imported and settled parasites a better existence and therefore such areas promote mass occurrence of many parasite species which may be vectors of serious diseases. H. Walden investigated the tick infestation and found differences in the density of *Ixodes ricinus* in gardens, parks and other biotopes of urban areas. He also pointed out the importance of dogs as hosts. M. Buske ascertained that new buildings with their changed microclimate and modern cleaning technology do not reduce the numbers of synantrophic fleas. The cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*), often also found on dogs, was observed in mass numbers.

The occurrence of the head louse (*Pediculus capitis*) poses a serious problem and as from March 1977 it is subject to obligatory report. R. Hänsel and O. Manuwald ascertained that extreme values of the incidence of pediculosis are influenced by the perspiration formation, temperature and relative humidity. The differences between the spring minimum and the autumnal maximum of cases have not been elucidated yet. H. Engelbrecht and M. Buske pointed out that the occurrence of lice in Central Europe increased markedly since 1977 and compared the factors in rural and urban environment which are affecting it. The remaining papers were concerned with problems of trombiculosis, disinsection (in cockroaches and ants), disinfection in protozoology as well as helminthology and therapy of parasitic diseases. In conclusion, the author of the present note reported on and demonstrated spatial models of cystic cavities in parasitology, at the invitation of the President of the Parasitological Society of the German Democratic Republic.

Excursions to the Zoological garden, the Branitzer Park, fishpond region near Peitz and to the Spreewald reserve, organized within the framework of the conference, informed the participants about local problems in animal breeding and relevant epizootology and epidemiology of parasitic diseases.

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