

**K. M. Ryzhikov, E. V. Gvozdev, M. M. Tokobaev, L. S. Shaldybin, G. V. Matsaberidze, I. V. Merkusheva, E. V. Nadtochii, I. G. Khokhlova, L. D. Sharpilo: Opredelitel gelmintov gryzunov fauny SSSR. Nematody i akantotsefaly. (Key to the helminths of rodents of the fauna of the USSR. Nematoda and Acanthocephala.) Publ. House Nauka, Moscow 1979, 278 pp., 141 Figs. Price 3.10 R.**

Several specialists have prepared a comprehensive book dealing with 168 species of nematodes and 5 species of acanthocephalans parasitic in rodents in the USSR. It was based on original studies of both Soviet and foreign literature. The strict systematical-taxonomical division makes the volume easy to survey and valuable for the practice. A brief characterization of taxons from the level of class to the level of genera is followed by a detailed description of species. For each species is given the range of hosts from the territory of the USSR, localization in the host and locality. The descriptions of taxons the systematic position of which is unclear or debatable are supplemented with notes. The book includes also a description of a new nematode genus, *Fascionema*, recovered from rodents in West Siberia. The concluding chapter, which is in fact a list of rodent species and their parasites of the classes Nematoda and Acanthocephala, contributes to the good arrangement of the book. Although the Key is of a systematical character, it can be widely used not only for the determination of helminths, but also in ecological studies and in the studies elucidating the specificity of helminths. More than 15 species of nematodes and 5 species of acanthocephalans parasitize rodents only occasionally and their main hosts are birds or herbi-

vorous Artiodactyla. Of great importance from the practical viewpoint are the nematodes and acanthocephalans parasitizing rodents bred as fur, domestic and laboratory animals and those parasitizing man. A good orientation is enabled by the fact that a majority of the species are illustrated in the figures; many of them are originals based on the material from the USSR. While evaluating the book it is necessary to mention an important circumstance: the complex work with a complete list of nematodes and acanthocephalans parasitic in rodents in the USSR including valuable data sometimes difficult to obtain is for the first time presented to the world public. It can serve as a base for further comparative and zoogeographical studies. The book will be highly appreciated not only in the practice, but also in the research and will serve as an important tool to helminthologists, zoologists, veterinarians, physicians and, last but not least, gamekeepers. The authors thus met one of the wishes of Academician Skryabin and prepared a book which will help all those who are dealing with the exact specific determination of parasites infecting domestic animals and animals of economic importance.

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