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# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TICK-BORNE ARBOVIRUSES (EXCLUDING GROUP B)

Arboviruses transmitted by ticks (there is a justified supposition that ticks are really their vectors) may be roughly divided into two groups: group B and those arboviruses which cannot be included in the group B. Viruses of the group B belong to the complex of arboviruses related to the tick-borne encephalitis virus and are mostly known as etiological agents of important diseases of man or domestic animals (TBE, KFD, OHF, LI etc.).

On the other hand, viruses transmitted by ticks (of the families Argasidae and Ixodidae), but not included in the group B, comprise about 40 different serotypes and their number is still increasing due to further research; however, ticks are often the only organisms, from which they have been isolated in nature. Only some of them are known to be of medical importance (Colorado tick fever, Crimean haemorrhagic fever, Kemerovo fever etc.).

The international symposium held between 9—12 September 1969 at Smolenice near Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) was devoted to this very group of tick-borne viruses excluding group B. The symposium was organised by the Institute of Virology, Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and was attended by 54 prominent specialists from 15 countries. The participants primarily discussed problems of the listing of new tick-borne arboviruses, their relationship to cells in vitro, their ecology and importance in human pathology. A total of 42 papers and communications were presented.

The programme of the symposium was divided into 6 sections. The introductory paper concerned with the classification of arboviruses excluding group B according to antigen structure with their distribution in the world and their relationship to certain tick species was submitted by J. Casals and H. Hoogstraal. The paper included latest published or unpublished data on this group of arboviruses and their vectors and pointed out primarily their heterogeneity and the insufficient knowledge obtained so far about them.

The relationships of these arboviruses to cells in vitro (in tissue cultures) were summarised by S. M. Buckley and H. Libíková. The present knowledge on the pathogenesis of these viruses was outlined by N. Oker—Blom and M. Grešíková, who presented the results of studies on the pathogenesis of arboviruses isolated from ticks in Europe, in susceptible hosts especially by demonstrating the virus antigen in susceptible host cells using the immunofluorescence method. The introductory papers in the section on the ecology of tick-borne arboviruses excluding group B were read by B. Rosický and M. G. R. Varma. They were concerned with the location of arboviruses in natural foci, their relationship to certain biotopes, especially to pastures, and with the seasonal dynamics. The section included ten other communications.

In the section on medical importance reports were presented by T. H. Work and C. Hannoun. Thanks to sensitive methods we are able today to trace the virus in ticks, but in most cases we do not know to which organism it is pathogenous. Only in some of them epidemiological importance was recorded.

The last section dealt with the problems of Crimean haemorrhagic fever. The introductory paper by M. T. Chumakov was read by M. K. Voroshilova. The discussion was focused in the astonishing discovery that the CHF virus is closely related to, if not identical with, the Congo virus known not only from Africa, but also from Asia, and in the distribution of CHF throughout the world.

All basic introductory papers will appear in a special brochure issued by the Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

The symposium was of a high professional standard.

Prof. Dr. B. ROSICKÝ, D.Sc