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H O S T
E N V I R O N M E N T

May, 28 - June, 1, 1991

Sofia, Bulgaria

- I. INVITED LECTURES
- II. POSTER ABSTRACTS

Sofia, 1991

Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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1991

c/o Jusauer, Sofia

THE NEW DATA ON RHABDIASOIDEA (NEMATODA) OF THE FAUNA OF THE UKRAINE

V.A.Kharchenko

Inst.zool. Acad.Sci. UkrSSR, Lenin str.15, Kiev-30,66P, 6U-252601

Study of the Rhabdiasoidea fauna of the Ukraine is interest as a basis for the investigation of the biology and systematics of this group of helminths. Special investigation of this group has not been carried in this region until now. The task of this work was qualitative analyses of the helminths fauna - adding the list of registered species, testing rare and doubtful ones.

Previous authors recorded 14 species of this group in the Ukraine. I added 7 species to this list: Rhabdias dossei, R.sphaerocephala, Strongyloides mustelorum, S.rostombekovi, S.ratti, S.darevskiy and Strongyloides sp.

R.dossei and R.sphaerocephala were found in Bufo bufo which was caught near Kiev. The number of R.dossei was 9 specimens and that of R.sphaerocephala 55 specimens. The tail length to body length ratio in two specimens among those I determined as R.dossei, was similar to that of R.bufo, in all other cases it ranged from 1/30 to 1/41.

One specimen of Strongyloides mustelorum was found in one of two Mustela nivalis from Askania-Nova reserve; 40 specimens in one of two M.nivalis and 9 specimens - in one M.erminea from Kiev environs. Nobody registered this species after its first description. At the same time there are many finds of another species parasitizing Mustelidae - S.martis Petrov, 1940 from different regions of the USSR and Poland. Unfortunately, morphological characters of S.martis are absent in all publications after the first description (Petrov, 1940). On comparison of the description and figure by Petrov with the description of S.mustelorum they were found to be identical. Proceeding from this, I assume that the name S.martis is synonymous to S.mustelorum.

Hundred specimens of S.rostombekovi were found in the colon of one Erinaceus europaeus which was obtained from the 'Chernomorskiy' reserve. My measurements differ from the ones done by Gamzeidze (1941). The parasite is 1.06-2.44 mm length, the length of oesophagus 0.292-0.750 mm, the distance of vulva from anterior extremity 0.670-1.52 mm, tail 0.33-0.52 mm length, ovaries are straight. Uteri contain 1-2 eggs. A lot of the rhabditoid larvae are found in the intestine of the host. S.rostombekovi morphologically looks like S.stercoralis. As the later it outputs larvae into the environment but not the eggs.

S.darevskiy was found in the hind gut of Lacerta saxicola from the Crimea. For 42 examined specimens prevalence was near 70%, intensity 1-16 specimens. In the laboratory eggs developed directly at 22-24 C and indirectly at 28-30 C. Adult free living generation appeared on the 3-4th day. Males were not numerous.

Single specimens of Strongyloides sp. were found in the small intestine of Gelohelidon nilotica from Kherson region, Alauda arvensis from Kiev region, Riparia riparia, Turdus musicus from Rovno region (the collection of L.A.Smogorjevskaya).

Earlier R.dossei could be taken as R.bufo. On the other hand validity of this species still have to be confirmed. Although the helminths fauna of this region is studied quite well, I was the first who found here R.sphaerocephala. The results prove once more that genus Strongyloides is widespread among the Tetrapoda. It is planned to study the biology of this group.