New books

Bondarenko, S.K., Kontrimavichus, V.L.: Fundamentals of Cestodology, Vol. 14, Aploparaksids of wild and domesticated birds. Nauka, Moscow, 2006. 443 pp., ISBN 5-02-035612-3

The monograph summarizes the results of long-term research of hymenolepidid cestodes of the family Aploparaksidae Mayhew, 1925 (Cyclophyllidea), predominantly distributed in the Holarctic region. The publication is based on the authors' own material of bird cestodes collected from almost the entire Eurasia and North America and/or material deposited in collections of numerous parasitological institutions and museums around the world. It comprises valuable revisions of hymenolepids *sensu lato* and the relevant scientific literature.

Introductory chapters deal mainly with the history of the research of the family Aploparaksidae with notes on the phylogeny in relation to different groups of definitive bird hosts. This part of the book deals in detail with the development of oncosphere and metacestode ontogenesis, including data on modifications of cyclicercs and their development in the intermediate hosts. An attention is also being paid to development of adult stages of aploparaksids with detail morphological characteristics of maturing tapeworms. This part of the monograph also comprises descriptions of taxonomically important structures and those that have yet not been studied in detail and still are crucial for the identification of these parasites. In the conclusion of the introductory chapter, an attention is given to the significance of two important larval features, the primary lacuna (*lacuna primitiva*) and the cercomer, in the tapeworm ontogenesis.

The main systematic part encompasses characteristics of 94 aploparaksid species belonging to the genera *Aploparaksis* (with two subgenera *Aploparaksis* and *Tanureria*), *Monorcholepis* and *Wardium*. Chapters devoted to individual genera also include a brief historical surveys and list of the species newly reclassified into the genera of Hymenolepididae family or those classified as the *species inquirenda*. This part is mostly devoted to characterisation

of the species supplemented with figures. The detailed descriptions of individual species are documented with data on synonyms, hosts, localities, and their geographic distribution. Besides, data on the variability of listed species, chromosomes and life cycles, descriptions of metacestodes with microphotographs and recent knowledge about specimens deposited in museums pertinently increase the scientific value of these descriptions. Well-arranged keys for identification of genera, subgenera and species are also incorporated.

The authors conclude their monograph with the list of aploparaksids by the host species, their alphabetical name index and a list of references.

It is desirable to praise the author's tremendous effort to bring into accord an identity of the species with an identity of the morphological forms, which were often described very briefly and insufficiently by various authors in the past. Rather than a compilation of aploparaksids described in literature, this monograph presents a critical re-evaluation of as many as 42 taxa on the basis of studies of the original material and original observation of their life cycles and postembryonic development. Another significant contribution of the book is the analysis of evolutionary aspects of the aploparaksids. It has been stated that this cestode group represents a phylogenetically older lineage within Hymenolepididae. However, recent aploparaksid forms may represent a progressive and dynamic branch, showing ecological and territorial expansion. This is a very significant suggestion, the value of which will surely be appreciated in the future.

In conclusion, the monograph comprises numerous, mainly original findings of authors, which partly modify or alter traditional views on ontogenesis and metacestode structures as well as on taxonomy of tapeworms generally. It targets not only professionals from the field of cestodology, but also those coming into a contact with parasitological problems in generality. The translation of the monograph into English would certainly find its use, in particular for its original interpretation.

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