Trav. Mus. Hist. nat. „Grigore Antipa"	vol. XXIII	pp. 469-473	Bucureşti, 1981

DIPTERA: ASILIDAE, OSKAR THEODOR, *IN*: FAUNA PALAESTINA. INSECTA II., Ed. ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES. 1980 p. 440.

The paper of the well known Israeli dipterologist, Prof. Oskar Theodor, relative to family Asilidae appeared in the series of fascicles of Fauna Palaestina.

The volume is based on a rich material deposited in the collections of the Department of Zoology — the Hebrew University Jerusalem. The valuable data are grouped in: a general part and a systematic one.

The introduction includes general data about the Asilids, presenting some morphological elements, their numerical situation on the globe and in the Palaearctic region as well as their biological role. The analysis of the evolution of the researches dedicated so far to these Dipterans reveals the scarcity of data concerning the fauna of Israel. Out of the 29 species signalled for this territory in 1937, only 17 proved to be valid.

In this paper, 154 species of Asilids belonging to 52 genera are signalled in the fauna of Israel. Among these, 2 genera and 73 species are new for science.

The general part gathers several subchapters with brief data of morphology, colour, sexual dimorphism, biology, and geographic distribution.

The author makes a comparison between the fauna of Israel and that of Romania and Egypt and draws the conclusion that 13 species are also common in Romania and 48 species, in Egypt. He equally analyses the species of Israel from the zoogeographic point of view.

The systematic part comprises dichotomic keys for subfamilies, tribes, genera and species, each taxon having its own diagnosis which is ampler for the species. The paper is illustrated by 865 figures (details) and 2 plates (general view) as well as a map of the studied area.

The references gather only 20 titles. Unfortunately, although the last title is dated 1976, some papers referring to some genera from the North Africa are missing, despite the fact that they were published prior to the last bibliographical reference. I mention that because in these missing papers are described species new for science belonging to some genera also present in Israel. This could lead to the synonymity of some of the numerous species described by Prof. O. Theodor.

Nevertheless, the value of the paper is not diminished, as it puts at the specialists' disposal a monographic study with particularly interesting data about family Asilidae in an area where its presence hasn't been known so far. This paper will be a precious instrument in the study of the Asilids as it illustrates the genitalia, an element absolutely necessary in the revision of the genera on a world scale.

MEDEEA WEINBERG

URANIA TIERREICH. WIRBELLOSE TIERE 2, 1979, 622 p. WIRBELLOSE TIERE 1, 1981, 534 p. URANIA-VERLAG LEIPZIG, JENA, BERLIN

This is the third edition of the paper on Invertebrates in the series "Urania-Tierreich" It is a general survey, using a common language, of the present knowledge in the field of the special Zoology.

"Special Zoology" is dealing with species of animals, related groups, their characterists, way of life, distribution, behaviour, development and history of their development. This field is "special" because it starts from related species or groups. Besides, it gathers at the same time all the knowledge accumulated by other disciplines too.

According to the descriptions, 1200000 species of present-day animals are known so far. But the number of the existing ones is certainly larger. There are still groups of animals insufficiently studied and hundreds of species — particularly insects and crustaceans — are being discovered every year. Their rigorous classification is made by the taxonomy. Most of the taxonomic researches are carried out by the museums' specialists who have at their disposal an extremely rich material. Their important papers are sometimes brought up-to-date and republished.

The two volumes treat the invertebrates (vol. 1: 15 phyla, 34 classes, 41 families; vol. 2: 10 phyla, 26 classes and 179 families). The large number of species made it necessary to select representative types. Consequently, the two volumes analyse only some species of the 25 phyli under study.

The illustration of the volumes is rich: 1040 figures, 214 of which are coloured. The black and white exceptional drawings represent the species, their inner organization, groups of morphological structures, various stages of development, aspects of behaviour etc. The black and white photographs present groups of species, biotops, the feeding in various species. Each chapter includes exceptionally beautiful coloured illustrations, the species being presented in their natural environment.

Lots of questions that could interest the readers such as the alternation of generations, the parasitism, the adaptation etc. find an answer in this study. The reader also learns interesting things from the history of zoology and gets an idea on the methods of work in zoology.

The volumes end each in the bibliographical references and the index of the scientific and folk designations.

Among the 6 published volumes, 3 are dedicated to the invertebrates (a volume dealing only with insects) which reveals the fact that the Publishing House took into consideration the large number of species of invertebrates. Accordingly, the "Urania-Tierreich" has no equal in the international literature of science popularization, being a kind of Brehm brought up-to-date.

The paper is addressed not only to zoologists but to all those who love nature, so that the work of the authors of these two volumes — all famous specialists — will keep alive the interest of an increasing number of people for the animal world.

ANNELIESE IONESCU

THE FAUNA OF SLUGS OF THE USSR AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES (GASTROPODA TERRESTRIA NUDA), BY L. M. LIKHAREV AND A. WIKTOR. *IN:* FAUNA SSSR. MOLIUSKI, III, 5. IZD «NAUKA» LENINGRAD, 1980. 437 p., 576 figs.

It is for the first time that, in a volume of malacological fauna, the systematic arrangement of the species of naked Gasteropoda as well as the presentation of the anatomical characters (genitalia, digestive apparatus and radula) are made comparatively and not statistically, descriptively.

On the basis of comparisons, the authors discuss and draw useful conclusions with the purpose of clearing up the validity or invalidity of some taxa. They also create new subfamilies, genera or subgenera and confirm previous transferings of species from a genus to another, synonymizing many species.

We think, however, that the authors are wrong as far as the anatomical characters are concerned with species *Limax maximus*. The genitalia presented by them in fig. 350, p. 279 are not those of *L. maximus*, but of *Limax cinereoniger*. (Lupu, 1973).

When synonymizing the species *Limax grossui* Lupu, 1970 to *Limax maculatus* (Kal. 1851), the authors should have solicited the holotype from our Museum.

Another error is, in our opinion, the fact that Likharev and Wiktor (1980) admit the existence of *L. maculatus* (Kal. 1851) (= *L. grossui* Lupu, 1970) in England too (pp. 284—285) on the basis of Chatfield's assertion (1976). *L. grossui* Lupu, 1970 does not exist in England; the species described by Chatfield (op. cit.) as *L. grossui* is, in fact *Limax pseudoflavus* Evans, 1978 (Evans, 1978); consequently *L. pseudoflavus* could be synonym to *L. maculatus*.

Accordingly, Likharev and Wiktor should have considered *L. grossui* sensu Chatfield as the only synonym of *L. maculatus* and exclude *L. grossui* sensu Lupu, which has no connection with *L. grossui* sensu Chatfield. They prove that the relationship of *L. pseudoflavus* Evans (= *L. grossui* sensu Chatfield) with *L. grossui* Lupu is unclear to them.

The occurrence of *L. grossui* Lupu in England is denied not only from the viewpoint of the dissimilarity of the anatomical characters of these two populations of Romania and England, as J. Evans also shows (1978), as we noticed many times in our turn on the material sent to us for study, but also under the zoogeographical aspect. *L. grossui*, a species with a very restricted Balkano-Caucasian distribution area, cannot survive in Great Britain (Ireland) where the life conditions are, as it is known, completely different from those of Turkey, Bulgaria or Crimea. Since in Romania, which is a neighbour of these countries, *L. grossui* appears but isolated in several localities on the south of Dobrogea (Mangalia, Hagieni), being totally absent in the other regions of the country, as in Central Europe.

We agree that *L. grossui* sensu Chatfield could be the same species of *L. maculatus* (Kal.) but we cannot accept the idea that *L. grossui* Lupu of Crimea, Turkey or Bulgaria can also occur in Ireland (Great Britain).

Within family Arionidae, the characters according to which Likharev and Wiktor distinguish the two species *Arion fasciatus* and *A. circumscriptus* from one another aren't but individual variabilities of the same species; this is an error into which other authors fell too (Lupu, 1974).

In spite of all these remarks, the paper of Likharev and Wiktor is a successful putting together of the naked Gasteropoda of the Soviet Union and the neighbouring countries. Through its content the paper rises above the preceding volumes of malacological fauna, being an objective, analytical and critical scientific study.

It will be useful to all the specialists in this field.

I would suggest that it should be also published in a widely circulated language which would make it more accessibile.

DOCHIȚA LUPU

HYMENOPTERA SYMPHYTA-FAM. TENTHREDINIDAE, SUBFAM. BLENNOCAMPINAE, NEMATINAE, XENIA G. SCOBIOLA-PALADE, *IN:* FAUNA REPUBLICII SOCIALISTE ROMÂNIA, INSECTA, VOL. IX, FASC. 9, ED. ACADEMIEI R.S.R., 1981 328 p.

L'auteur nous offre un nouveau volume très important par son contenu, paru dans la Faune de la R.S.R.; elle finit l'étude des Hyménoptères Tenthredinidae en publiant deux autres sous-familles, qui comprennent de nombreuses espèces nuisibles tant à l'économie forrestière qu'à celle des plantes cultivées.

Dans une brève introduction, l'auteur montre l'importance des deux sous-familles insuffisamment connues autrefois. Au total ont été étudiées 219 espèces et une sous-espèce appartenant à 53 genres. Bien de ces espèces sont nouvelles pour la faune du pays. Dans ses recherches, l'auteur a employé tant le riche matériel récolté par elle-même que celui récolté par des collègues du musée ou de l'étranger. Ce matériel est gardé dans les collections du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle « Gr. Antipa » de București et dans la collection du Muséum des Sciences Naturelles « Brukenthal » de Sibiu. Elle a aussi employé pour la comparaison les collections des musées de Budapest et de Moscou.

La liste systématique des 219 espèces étudiées réunit 8 pages. La partie générale (7 pages) comprend l'étude morphologique externe du stade d'imago. Divers aspects de morphologie interne ont été présentés par l'auteur dans la Faune de la R.S.R., Insecta, vol. 9, fasc. 8.

La partie systématique (290 pages) commence par la présentation des caractéristiques de la sous-famille des Blennocampinae, suivie par une courte clé des 7 tribus ainsi que par la clé de détermination des 101 espèces. Suivent la caractérisation de la sous-famille des Nematinae, la clé de détermination des 19 genres et autant de clés de détermination pour 119 espèces.

Le travail relève que les genres les plus riches en représentants sont *Allantus* et *Pontania*, chacun avec 11 espèces; *Pachynematus*, avec 12 espèces; *Pristiphora* avec 25 espèces et *Nematus* avec 26 espèces.

L'auteur décrit l'adulte de chaque espèce mentionnée dans le travail et figure les principaux éléments spécifiques: le fourreau et la lame de la scie, la valve péniale, le tergite 8, la nervation des ailes, la manière d'attaque des larves sur divers organes des plantes, des mines sur les branches, des feuilles minées, des feuilles rongées etc.; de nouvelles données écologiques et éthologiques, là où elles sont connues, la répartition géographique etc.

Le travail s'achève par la liste bibliographique qui réunit 133 de travaux et l'index des espèces étudiées.

Le volume constitue un précieux déterminateur pour tous ceux qui étudient ce groupe d'Hyménoptères, car il comprend aussi de nombreux agents nuisibles aux forêts et aux plantes de culture.

ION DRĂGHIA

ANTHROPOGENESE UND MATERIALISTISCHE DIALEKTIK. DR. PHIL. INGEBORG FOERSTER. MAGDEBURG. VEB GUSTAV FISCHER VERLAG JENA. 123 s., 7 SCHEMATA ALS BEILAGE. 1981.

Dr. Foerster's book dialectically interpretes the history of man and of human society. For this philosophy, the theory of anthropogeny acquires an importance of principle just on the basis of its consistently materialist results, answering thus the questions concerning the nature of man and his place in the world, the origin of man and of the human society. The palaeontological and archaeological discoveries as well as the studies on the communication through signs between the superior primates led to the conclusion that man socially evolved as a consequence of a close interrelationship between work, thinking and speaking.

The book is separated into 6 chapters. After a short introduction, are presented the theoretical and methodological principles which are to be adopted in the anthropogenetic studies (chap. 1) as well as the fundamental laws of the dialectical materialism (chap. 2). The pages 18—21 are dedicated to the philosophy of the quantitative accumulations that results in qualitative leaps, with the indication of the motive powers and the class character of these leaps within the complicated process of evolution.

In the chapters 3 and 4, emphasis is laid on the new links resulting between the dialectical materialist outlook and the anthropogeny.

Chapter 6 goes deeply into the significance of the qualitative leaps within this process which is debated in detail, with proofs, in chapter 5. The latter covers 33 pages, including up-to-date palaeontological, archaeological and ethnographical information supported by a series of new research methods applied on recent beings. The reconstitution of man's philogeny isn't thus based on the classic study of the anatomo-morphological features of the fossils but also on the extrapolation of the studies made at the level of system of organs, organs, tissues and cells, up to the genetic studies (e. g. chromosomes) and the macromolecular ones (the nucleic and amino acids, serumproteins, enzymes, hormones, antigenes of the blood groups) on the recent related organisms. Moreover, besides the relative datings through the stratigraphic and sporopollinic studies allowing only a very general comparative appreciation of the fossil age, today, absolute datings can be achieved by using radioactive carbon, potassium-argon, nuclear fission etc.

It is only by employing this multitude of work methods on factual materials that several theories and hypotheses could be elaborated as concerns the complicated process of anthropogeny, finally establishing the space and time of the separation of man's evolutive line.

Examples: *Propliopithecus haeckeli* discovered in Egypt, dating from the oligocene — 30—35 million years ago. The stage of the Ramapithecinae includes several genera and species: *Ramapithecus punjabicus* from the north of India and from Pakistan — miocene — 9—14 million years ago; *R. wickeri* from the east of Afrika; *Sivapithecus* from Pakistan and Turkey; *Rudapithecus* from Hungary and *Helladopithecus* from Greece. Followed the stage of the Australopithecinae from the pliocene 800,000—3,500,000 years ago: *Australopithecus africanus* from South and East Africa; *A. robustus* from South Africa; *A. boisei* and *A. afarensis* from East and South Africa.

The line of the first man *(Homo habilis)* appeared in the lower pleistocene — 1.4—3 million years ago — was established on the basis of the discoveries from the east of Africa. Consequently, the appearance of the archanthropiens *(H. erectus)* with lots of subspecies of Africa, Asia and Europe is placed in the middle pleistocene — 300,000—1,900,000 years ago. The series of the palaeanthropiens *(H. sapiens praesapiens* from Federal Germany, England and France; *H. s. praeneanderthalensis* from Czechoslovakia, Gibraltar, Italy, Democratic Germany, Jugoslavia and France; *H. s. neanderthalensis* from England, Democratic Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Greece etc.) evolved from the middle pleistocene to the upper one — 40,000—250,000 years ago.

Following the same idea of establishing evolution stages, are presented the anatomo-morphological features of a man (teeth, shape and volume of brain, size, weight etc.) in his relationship with the natural environment factors (the use, first accidental then systematic, of tools taken from nature, their processing and improvement), the traces of material culture from the unpolished stone to the primitive tools and then to the industrial ones; from knives, needles, harpoons, borers up to carvings and statuettes, wall paintings in caves, clothes sewing, hut and house building. The herd of animals evolved to the hordes of primitive men and finally to the human society.

The supplement of the book schematically presents the hypothese about the phylogenetic origin of hominids, the palaeolithic culture and technology, the connection between the physical evolution, the speaking and the relationship with the environment factors in various stages, the evolution of hominids in pleistocene, their outlooks about anthropogeny, the total and partial qualitative leaps in the dialectical transition from the biological form of movement of the matter to the social one; scheme 4 presents a résumé of the evolution stages of the hominids. The book ends in a rich bibliography (200 titles).

The treated subject — the dialectical philosophy of the evolution of man — the small typographic letters and the condensation of extremely numerous data in only 123 pages diminish the interest of the non specialists. The book is however a very well-informed up-to-date synthesis of the studies about the evolution of man, interpreting the data in the light of the dialectical-materialist philosophy. It will be a good reference paper for anthropologists, archaeologists, ethnographers, teachers of social sciences as well as for all the students and researchers learning or working in the field of natural sciences and in that of philosophy.

DUMITRU MURARIU