

BOOK REVIEW

NATURAL POPULATION REGULATORY FACTORS AFFECTING BITING FLIES IN S.E. KAZAKHSTAN, U.S.S.R. A. M. Dubitskii, Managing Editor, with a Preface and editorial contributions by Marshall Laird and consultation with H. C. Chapman. 1983. Published for the National Library of Medicine and the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., by Amerind Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India 171 pp.

[A translation from the Russian: *Regulatory chislonosti gnusa na yugo-vosloke Kazakhstana SSR. Akademiya nauk Kazakhstana, Institut Zoologii, Alma-Ata, 1973. 165 pp.*]

This is a collection of preliminary reports on diverse topics brought together in one volume on the common ground of geography. Many chapters are descriptive of the pathogens and predators found in the area. Where the role of these organisms in vector control is discussed it is generally only infection rates or feeding preferences given without clear indication of their effects on the vector populations. Several chapters present the results of laboratory exper-

imentation on specific pathogens. Chapter 8 presents results of transmission of *Thelohania (Amblyospora) opacita* under experimental conditions; certainly a first for this type of microsporidian. A new species of mermithid nematode is described. The effects of *Bacillus thuringiensis* exotoxin and organosphosphate insecticides are evaluated. The last seems out of place in a volume on natural population regulatory factors.

Of most value, in my opinion, is the information on natural epizootics and the seasonality of certain pathogens. The work is over 10 years old and significant discoveries, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (H-14) and the intermediate host of *Coelomomyces*, came after this work was done, dating the chapters on the evaluation of microbial pathogens and *Coelomomyces*.

There is information in this book which is new to western science and it is a rare window on Soviet efforts into biological control of vector insects. A. H. Undeen, Insects Affecting Man and Animals Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, P. O. Box 14565, Gainesville, FL 32604.

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