

Commemoration on the 120th Anniversary * of the Birth of László ÖRLEY

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ABSTRACT. Brief report is given on the scientific activity of L. ÖRLEY (27 October, 1856 - 12 July, 1887), one of the first and dedicated workers of parasitology in Hungary.

László ÖRLEY was an outstanding scientist of the late 19th century. He conducted remarkable studies on morphological, physiological, taxonomical and epidemiological aspects of many parasitic plathyhelminth and roundworm species as well as Annelids.

He was born in Budapest on 27th October, 1856. He graduated at the "University of Pest" with prominent results. From 1876 he was Tivadar MARGÓ's assistant professor for five years. His first noticeable piece of work appeared in 1878. This was concerned with the life cycle of the nonparasitic nematode species Anguillula aceti. He obtained his doctor's degree in the same year.

In his lecture presented at the XXth itinerary congress of the Hungarian Physicians and Nature-Investigators in 1879 and at the Naturehistorical Society in 1882 he surveyed the geographic distribution of parasites of humans and the diseases caused by them. He dealt with the haematochyluria associated with the infection by Wuchereria bancrofti, Dracunculus medinensis, Loa loa and Schistosoma haematobium. He described in detail the life cycle of Diphyllobothrium latum, Ascaris lumbricoides and Enterobius vermicularis. Finally he presented a table on the 45 parasitic Trematode, Cestode and Nematode species known from humans at that time (1, 2).

As holder of a state scholarship, in 1880-1881 he worked in Leipzig with professor Rudolf LEUCKART, then in London with the institute of Thomas Henry HUXLEY. Here he was invited to arrange the rich Vermes collection of the British Museum. The results of his work were published in 3 papers in English (1881, 1882, 1884). One of these described the parasites collected from 12 fish species from Madras. He identified 3 Acanthocephalus, 1 Tetrarhynchus, 3 Pterobothrium and distinguished 1 further Acanthocephalus and 1 Pterobothrium species (3). The other two papers of him dealt with non-parasites.

In 1881 he was awarded with the "BUGÁT" prize of the Naturehistorical Society for his study entitled "The description of Anguillulidae". Commissioned by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences he compiled "The fauna of Oligochaetes in Hungary."

From 1882 onwards the Hungarian government had been hiring a working place, a so-called "table", at the Stazione Zoologica in Naples. Minister Ágoston TREFFORT and ministerial counsellor Lajos MARKUSOVSKY provided this way working facilities for Hungarian research workers in a marine scientific institute.

* Part of a manuscript in preparation on the life and activity of Hungarian parasitologists.

Upon A. DOHRN's request for one year he was collaborator of the "Zoologisches Jahresberichte", the very first review periodical of the world. ÖRLEY published an interesting and informative report on the Stazione Zoologica, too (4).

In 1883 he was qualified as a lecturer at the "University of Pest" in the field of "Bowel worms". In 1886 he won the 100 gold crown reward of the Hungarian Physicians and Nature-Investigators with his work "The description of the Rhabditis from medical and nature-historical point of view" (7), which was published also in German (8). In this work orismological features, anatomy and histology, as well as distribution, physiology, life-cycle and pathogenic significance of these species are discussed.

In 1886 Tivadar MARGÓ recommended ÖRLEY for corresponding membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, but the young scientist was refused.

He spoke German, English, French, Greek, Latin, Italian, and read also Spanish. His noble character and deep scientific dedication is revealed by his these own words: "One of the most beautiful and magnificent gift of nature for the man is the irresistible impulse to search for the unknown, to disclose the truth. This is the source of pleasure in research and investigation, this moves man to face difficulties."

Under the agreement between the Hungarian government and the founder of the institute, professor Anton DOHRN, the "Hungarian table" was first used by László ÖRLEY who worked in Naples in 1882-1883. (CHYZER's data on ÖRLEY to work in 1884 in Naples appears to be wrong according to the archives of the Stazione Zoologica di Napoli.)

In Naples ÖRLEY studied the respiratory tentacles and the role of their haemoglobin in the respiration of *Serpulaceae* and *Sabelidae* (Annelids) as well as the physiology of the embryo of a shark species. Besides his scientific results he enriched the collection of the Hungarian National Museum by an abundant marine zoological collection. He became assistant curator of the Museum in 1882.

He autopsied 40 specimens of shark and ray from the Gulf of Naples for parasites (5, 6). Of the found 32 Nematode species *Acanthocheilus intermedius* Örley and *Ascaris affinis* Örley were new to science. He recorded 15 Trematode species. As regards Cestodes, larval forms of 14 species and adults of 62 species were identified by him. He noticed that tapeworms were small-sized in the shark and ray species. Tapeworms found in the largest Charcharias and Heptanchus host species never exceeded 10 cm in length. Moreover, the smaller the hosts are, the bigger Cestodes they harbour.

ÖRLEY strained his nerves with overwork which early consumed his energies. A few weeks before his death at their last meeting CHYZER stated with grief: "The healthy looking, nice body hides an undermined, sick soul... In Bosnia he looked death boldly in the face, but he could not bear his temporary decline and obtained on a forceful manner the rest not known in life that he found on 12th July, 1887 for ever."

LUKÁCS, D.: Emlékezés ÖRLEY Lászlóra
születésének 120 éves évfordulója alkalmából

A közlemény a múlt század fiatalon elhunyt kiváló zoológusának, ÖRLEY Lászlónak (1856. október 27. - 1887. július 12.) parazitológiai vonatkozású munkásságát ismerteti.



László ÖRLEY
1856-1887

Parasitological works of ÖRLEY:

1. (1880): A bélférgék szerepe, keletkezése és elterjedése, különös tekintettel az emberre - Magyar orvosok és természetvizsgálók 1879. aug. 21-től szept. 3-ig Budapesten tartott XX. Vándorgyűlésének történeti vázlata és munkái, 159-165.
2. (1882): Az emberi bélférgekről. - Természettud. Közl. 14. 137-148. and 225-236.
3. (1884): Notes on some parasites of fishes from Madras determined by Örley. - Annales and Magazine of Natural History 5 (13). 173-174.
4. (1883): A zoológiai állomások és az állattani kutatások újabb módszerei. (Stazione Zoologica di Napoli, 144-149.) - Természettud. Közl. 15. 144-157.
5. (1885): A cápák és ráják bélférgei. - Természetrajzi Füzetek 9. 97-126.
6. (1885): Die Entozoen der Haien und Rochen. - Természetrajzi Füzetek 9. 215-236.
7. (1885): Rhabditisek magánrajza orvosi és természetrajzi szempontból. - Matem. Természettud. Közl. 21. 1-135.
8. (1886): Die Rhabditiden und ihre medizinische und naturwissenschaftliche Bedeutung. Berlin pp. 84.

Works about ÖRLEY:

1. CHYZER, K. (1888): Örley László. - Magyar orvosok és természetvizsgálók 1888. aug. 23-27. Tátrafüreden tartott XXIV. Vándorgyűlésének történeti vázlata és munkái, 64-66.
2. LENGYEL, I. (1888): Az 1887-ben elhunyt természettudósok nekrológja. - Természettud. Közl. 20. 464-474. (Örley, 471-472.)
3. LUKÁCS, D. (1974): A 100 éves Nápolyi Zoológiai Állomás és a magyar kutatók. - Állattani Közl. 61. 49-66. (Örley, 49-50.)
4. GROEBEN, Ch. (1975): The Naples Zoological Station at the time of Anton Dohrn 1-110. (Örley, 96.) Edit. Naples Zool. Station.

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