University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" Medical University of Plovdiv National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ZOOLOGY, ZOONOSES AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS

October 21 – 23, 2019 Hissar, Bulgaria

Plovdiv University Press

ISBN 978-619-202-507-6

FOREWORD

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Third International Conference on Zoology, Zoonoses and Epidemiology.

The Conference provides the opportunity for academics, researchers, epidemiologists, microbiologists and vets to gather and discuss about the latest advances in the field of animal taxonomy, faunistics, ecology, applied zoology, vector-borne diseases, epidemiology, population genetics, molecular biology, biomonitoring, conservation zoology.

We hope the Conference will be a great platform for a dynamic exchange of information, ideas and recent scientific discoveries in light of recent climate changes and the associated epidemiological risk for public health.

We assure the Third International Conference on Zoology, Zoonoses and Epidemiology is going to facilitate future collaborations and develop ideas for further research for all participants.

We wish you fruitful work, success and a pleasant stay in beautiful Hissar town and in Bulgaria!

Welcome!

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Where to swim, where to eat? Laboratory report on behaviour of the ostracod *Heterocypris incongruens*

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Abstract: Heterocypris incongruens represents a cosmopolitan crustacean species inhabiting continental waters of temperate climate. They use the first and the second antennae and some body limbs for swimming, and to capture food particles. Our previous investigation revealed different behavioural activities and general food preferences of this species. The aim of the present study is to further follow and quantify locomotor and feeding activities of this species, in which individuals had free access to different items in the experimental conditions. In conditions that partially simulate its natural environment, we measured time that the individuals spent on two aforementioned activities. In order to measure feeding activities, four different types of food were offered: two of the plant origin and two of the animal origin. Also, some non-food items were included into experiment (neutral aquarium sand similar in colour with food). Behavioural activities of *H. incongruens* and their duration will be discussed in the context of presence or absence of food.