

BOOK REVIEW

Rudolf W. Hoffmann: Fischkrankheiten. Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, 2005. ISBN 3-8001-2739-3, hardback, 224 pp. Price not given.

This book comes from the cradle of German and at the same time Central European fish pathology. It is written in German by a professor teaching at the same Munich university chair held hundred years ago by the well-known pioneer of this science, Bruno Hofer. The readership that this book addresses is veterinarians and fish biologists working with freshwater fish and this reflects the scope of the work.

The book opens with principal types of food fish farming, mainly freshwater carp and salmonid husbandry. Only a few pages are devoted to maricultures, greater attention is paid to ornamental fish breeding. Quite pleasing is the rather extensive chapter on fish anatomy, also dealing with histology. Then follows a chapter on examination of diseased fish. Chapters on viral infections, on bacterial infections and on mycoses together take 60 pages while that on parasites takes 50 pages. Then follow chapters on fish intoxications and damage due to environmental factors, on tumorous growths, on zoonoses and human intoxications through fishes and a special part on therapy of fish diseases.

In view of the rather practical aiming of this handbook — envisaged to help veterinarians, fish biologists and aquarium hobbyists with diagnosis of fish diseases — a fish parasitology student will find in it many useful information concerning fish — husbandry, anatomy or viroses and bacterioses. As regards parasitoses, one can have some comments, e.g., the classification of organisms is outdated, especially of protists, and this also relates to obsolete or inaccurate names (“c-cells” instead of extrasporogonic stages of *Sphaerospora renicola*), *Neoparamoeba* on the gills of salmonids is not mentioned which perhaps reflects the focus on freshwater fish; PKD is still due to a “myxosporea incertae sedis” instead of *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*, the legend to the photograph of the egg of *Sanguinicola inermis* is inaccurate, and the choice of references omits key treatises while including those of minor importance.

The book has an appealing layout, nicely printed text and fine hard cover.

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