BOOK REVIEW

R.A. Bray, D.I. Gibson and A. Jones (Eds.): Keys to the Trematoda. Vol. 3.
CAB International and Natural History Museum, London, 2008. ISBN 978-0-85199-588-5, XVI + 824 pp., hard cover. Price: EUR 240.00, USD 300.00, GBP 150.00.

The third and final volume of a highly praised series on the systematics and identification of the platyhelminth class Trematoda Rudolphi, 1808 is now available. It contains five superfamilies of the order Plagiorchiida: Gorgoderioidea Looss, 1899; Microphalloidea Ward, 1901; Monorchioidea Odhner, 1911; Opisthorchioidea Looss, 1899; and Plagiorchioidea Lühe, 1901; plus the family Didymozoidae Monticelli, 1888 of the order Strigeida which was omitted from Volume 1.

The book is written by a team of international experts, 18 leading scientists from Australia (D.P. Barton, D. Blair, T.H. Cribb, T.L. Miller and J. Pearson), Brazil (C.P. Santos), Czech Republic (T. Scholz), France (S. Deblock), India (R. Madhavi), Poland (T. Pojmańska), Russia (S.E. Pozdnyakov), UK (R.A. Bray, D.I. Gibson and A. Jones), and USA (R.A. Campbell, W.F. Font, J.M. Lotz and V.V. Tkach). Invariably in the thoughtfully written introduction sections the authors have presented novel concepts for the taxonomy of the groups covered often in conjunction with molecular evidence, and a substantial effort has been made towards reappraisal of the generic diagnoses *via* re-examination of type and/or other representative species. As in the previous volumes a profound editorial effort has brought coherence to the book.

The structure of this volume follows the format of the previous volumes. The book (59 chapters covering 618 genera, including five new genera: *Neoplagioglyphe* Tkach, 2008; *Neotimonia* Madhavi, 2008; *Parachrisomon* Madhavi, 2008; *Perleuilobus* Miller et Cribb, 2008; *Rohdetrema* Deblock, 2008; and *Tahratrema* Jones, 2008) provides an excellent taxonomic background and discussion on the taxonomic concepts adopted and nomenclatural decisions made by the authors, familial diagnoses, keys and diagnoses to the genera and subfamilies (where applicable). A further five chapters give short introductions and

diagnoses of the superfamilies, and keys to the families covered. A separate chapter comprises diagnoses of 18 genera *incertae sedis* in the superfamily Plagiorchioidea (*sensu lato*), lists of digenean generic names (genera *inquirenda*, larval names and *nomina nuda*) not used in the three volumes of keys and a list of the new genera erected after the publication of the first two volumes of the series. Furthermore, this volume includes a linking key to all superfamilies of the Digenea with a reference to the volume of the series where treated in detail, thus providing a completeness to this fundamental work. The book contains a comprehensive bibliography and an index to all the taxa; the text is free from typographical errors. Although the style of the illustrations differs, the line drawings are clear despite the reduction and aid in the depiction of generic features.

This book represents the most important contribution to the systematics and identification of the taxa covered and, together with the previous two volumes, will serve as essential work of reference well into the 21st century. Furthermore, the Editors' admirable endeavours to develop a classification of the Digenea based on phylogenies inferred from molecular data represent an indispensable step towards a natural system of this large and diverse platyhelminth group. The volume is essential for taxonomists, and the comprehensive keys will be valuable for parasitologists, both experts and novices, who study the diversity of parasites of wild-life vertebrates. It also includes groups of veterinary and medical significance, such as the Dicrocoeliidae and Opisthorchiidae, thus having direct relevance to human and veterinary parasitology. No doubt this volume will join the first two on the book-shelves of the academic and research libraries worldwide. I recommend it highly and congratulate the editors and authors on their accomplishment.

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