

G. W. Krantz: *A Manual of Acarology*. Corvallis, Oregon, 1970. Price not given.

A new link has been added to the series of well-arranged manuals of acarology. The personality of its author, who is a professor of entomology at the University of Corvallis and a specialist in mesostigmatic mites, guarantees the professional level of the manual. Apart from a short Introduction summarizing the historical data on the development of acarology, there are seven short and well-arranged chapters — Systematic Position of the Acari, Morphology and Function, Reproduction and Embryogenesis, Oviposition and Life Stages, Habits and Habitats, Collection, Preparation and Mounting of Mite Specimens, and Classification. The major part of the book is devoted to the taxonomy of mites. Generally, the usual division has been respected. Zakhvatkin's and Grandjean's views of the diphyletic origin of mites are only briefly mentioned on page 60. It is interesting to note that although Zakhvatkin's important and well-founded conclusions (1952) (according to which Grandjean's group Actinochitinosi was included in the new super-order Actinochaeta together with Palpigradi and Solifugae, while the other mites were placed in the super-order Actinoderina along with Aranea, Opiliones etc.) are mentioned from time to time in the literature, perhaps with the exception of Hirschmann's manual (1966) they have not yet been appropriately appreciated. Krantz divides the mites into three orders (Opilioacariformes, Parasitiformes, Acariformes), all of them being successively discussed in the book. The taxonomical part of the book opens with the key to orders and sub-orders. The basic taxonomical unit of the text is represented by sub-orders, which are always introduced with

a survey of morphological characters completed with references to figures. After them the individual super-families are dealt with, each being characterized by a brief diagnosis followed by the ecology of respective taxa. Then, there is a detailed list of more important literary sources, most of which were chosen very carefully so that they could serve as a good guide for finding new information about the groups described. Each sub-order is closed with a key to families. Those keys are elaborated in accordance with the latest literary sources, but they can be used only by specialists in the field of acarology who know how to recognize and avoid treacheries of such keys. Some characters given (such as Canestrinioidea — Acaridoidea) directly demonstrate the incongruity of the present state (the mentioned example is also confirmed by the fact that as a representative of the family Canestriniidae in Table 100 the author presents *Melisia* which is far from the true Canestriniidae).

Illustration plates are an important part of the manual. The arrangement of figures in plates makes it possible to compare the individual characters and facilitates the use of the book. There is a total of 144 illustration plates, 12 of them being appended to the introductory chapter, some other figures are placed in the text. As a whole, the book represents a successful continuation of Baker Wharton's "An Introduction to Acarology" which is one of the main compendia of acarology. In spite of the absence of a list of genera the manual will certainly find a wide use because of its extent and solid elaboration and will considerably contribute to further advances in acarology.

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