

The monograph is a result of the author's studies of the tick fauna lasting more than thirty years; it gives a general picture of the present state of knowledge of this medically important group of parasitic arthropods on the Australian continent. The short introduction (pp. 1—6) is devoted to the history of the research of ticks in Australia, their medical importance, methods of collection, examination and classification. The main part of the text (pp. 7—129) comprises the family Ixodidae, its morphologic characteristics, types of life-cycles and a key to the genera. Each genus is specified by a definition, concise characteristics of the Australian species, the eventual subgeneric division and a key to the species on the basis of males, females and nymphs. Appended to the individual species are the most important references, descriptions of the male, female and nymph, hosts, distribution and comments. The section given to the family Argasidae (pp. 129—143) proceeds in a similar way; the author, however, gives a detailed description of the females but a short one of the males and nymphs. Then follow references (pp. 144—152) and 2 appendices (pp. 153—173) containing

a host-parasite list and the geographic distribution of the ticks identified in Australia. The monograph is concluded by the pictorial part (pp. 175—264) and a common index of names and subjects. So far, 59 species have been reported from Australia, divided among the individual genera as follows: *Argas* (4), *Ornithodoros* (3), *Amblyomma* (12), *Aponomma* (8), *Boophilus* (1), *Haemaphysalis* (8), *Ixodes* (22) and *Rhipicephalus* (1). Sixteen from among the taxons quoted have been described by the author himself, therefrom one species in the present publication.

The monograph will certainly receive a favourable criticism. Its contents are well-arranged, full of valuable information and relevant data. It is regrettable that the book could not bring the descriptions of larvae owing to the incomplete knowledge of their morphology. The tables of illustrations bring the most relevant features; only a few photographs of argasids have come out illucid. In general, it may be stated that the monograph on the Australian ticks is a valuable publication among the ixodologic literature of the recent years.

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