

K. G. V. Smith (Ed.): Insects and other arthropods of medical importance

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This book substitutes Smart's "Handbook for the Identification of Insects of Medical Importance". Although identification remains to be the main objective of this new publication, an emphasis has also been put to the biological and medical importance of insects and other arthropods. The book is divided into 19 chapters compiled by a team of 16 specialists. The introductory general chapter deals with insects, their development, structure, classification, zoogeography, methods of collecting and preserving; a brief survey of medically important insects and arachnids is added. The subsequent five chapters devoted to Diptera are divided into 11 sections. The section concerned with mosquitoes contains, apart from a short introduction, an extensive key to genera of females, pupae and larvae of mosquitoes, newly arranged on a world basis. The family Simuliidae is presented in great detail, including a review of the present position of knowledge on the role of black flies as vectors of pathogenic organisms. An extensive chapter is devoted to the family Glossinidae, with a detailed key to imagoes and puparia. The chapter dealing with fleas contains, besides an introduction, sections on medical importance of fleas, identification and preservation, keys to some genera in various continents, and is completed by a list of medically important flea genera, including the information on distribution, hosts and pathogenic organisms transmitted by particular flea genera. Subsequent chapters are concerned with medically important representatives of the orders

Hemiptera, Phthiraptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, arachnids and other arthropods and the group Pentastomida. The chapter on forensic entomology contains a survey of the succession of fauna on human corpse. The next chapter covers insects and hygiene and is followed by the last chapter presenting a survey of arthropods as vectors of pathogenic organisms. The survey is arranged according to systematics of particular orders and groups and is illustrated by charts of distribution of some typical diseases. All chapters end with a comprehensive bibliography, the groups are elaborated on a world basis. At the end of the book author and subject indexes are appended. (Referring to the subject index it should be noted that pages indicating the subject mentioned in the text should be divided by a comma and not connected with a hyphen. This creates an impression that the pages indicate several pages of coherent text, e.g. Lepidoptera, 483-5). The text is illustrated by numerous high quality figures (description in Fig. 97 might have been carried out in standard type as in other illustrations).

Besides newly arranged keys this well organized publication also includes a wealth of new information on insects and other arthropods as vectors of pathogenic agents. Therefore it will be of great interest not only to medical entomologists for whom it is mainly intended, but also to other readers, primarily the workers of the public health service.

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