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W. Tischler: Ökologie mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Parasitologie. Wörterbücher der Biologie.

Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart 1975, 125 pp., 27 Figs. Price 9.80 DM.

Another of biological dictionaries published by Gustav Fischer's Publishing House in the series "Uni-Taschenbücher" has appeared. It is devoted to ecology and was prepared by the eminent German ecologist and parasitologist, Professor Wolfgang Tischler, Head of the Department of Ecology, Institute of Zoology, Kiel University. The dictionary was published simultaneously by the same publishing house in Stuttgart in the German Federal Republic and in Jena in the German Democratic Republic and was printed in GDR.

Approximately 1,600 entries included in the dictionary give a survey of the bases of ecology including autecology, demecology and synecology, questions of terrestrial ecology, limnology and sea ecology. There are also items concerning plant and animal sociology, problems of preservation of nature and environment and other specializations. A special attention is paid to parasitology which is covered almost entirely, from protozoology to helminthology and arachnoentomology. Special entries are devoted to most important parasitic diseases or their causative agents, main carriers of diseases, and various forms of parasitism and more free co-existence of two organisms, as well as basic general terms as parasitism, host, natural focus, living form etc. All entries are compendious and many definitions are original and made up in terms of most modern views and most interesting aspects.

Many items are supplemented with figures, schemes or graphs of high graphical level. The book is well-arranged and gives evidence of

the author's deep knowledge of the subject, his modern methods in preparing such work of encyclopedic character, as well as of the good work of the publisher.

The author has worked on this publication for many years considering all modern general and taxonomical views. In spite of this, there are older terms used for some items, like, e.g., inexact and out of date, though still applied "trombidiosis" instead of trombiculosis used for the autumnal rashes (p. 113) etc. Some of the basic items were omitted, as anthroponosis, anthroponosis, ecosystem, ecoton, mites etc. It is understandable that a dictionary of this extent cannot cover all specialized fields, but the significance of most of the above-mentioned terms results from related items or they are mentioned under equivalent or less general entries.

The ecological dictionary by W. Tischler is of very high level, well-arranged and understandable and the graphical and editorial arrangement is of high quality. It will certainly become an essential tool for all biologists, both specialists and amateurs, studying the relations between the organisms themselves or between the organisms and the environment, and engaged in the problems of living environment, preservation and formation of the landscape etc. The publication of this dictionary is highly appreciated and it is desirable that more similar book appear, likewise successful, though exacting for the author.

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