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V. Sprague, J. Vávra (Eds.). Systematics of the Microsporidia. Comparative Pathobiology (L. A. Bulla, T. C. Cheng Eds.) vol. 2. Plenum Press, New York and London 1977, 510 pp. Price \$ 39.

The second part of the monograph on the biology of microsporidia gives a comprehensive review of the present state of microsporidian taxonomy. The volume consists of three large chapters, all written by V. Sprague. In the first chapter, dealing with classification and phylogeny of the new phylum Microspora ph. n., the reader is presented with a proposal of a new classification, completely discarding (and rightly so) old Kudo's system as an obsolete one and using as a starting point that of Tuzet and coworkers from 1971. Although some of the guidelines for separating higher taxa and recognizing of new genera (there is now a total of 44 genera!) may stimulate a discussion, this system tries to harmonize the large amount of recent information and is certainly much more logical than the old schemes.

The unique value of the bulk part of the book, the 310 page long annotated list of microsporidia is in the fact that since 1924 this is the first up-to-date list of all recorded

species. To each species there is the synonymies, bibliographical data, host and site of infection along with brief description of vegetative and sporulation stages, spores and locality, and in many cases, remarks pertaining to the taxonomic status or nomenclatural history of the species in question. The last chapter is a taxonomically arranged list of host species invaded by one or more microsporidia.

This volume will be an invaluable aid as a basis for all future taxonomical work with microsporidia, whose value both as biological model and a potential tool for biological control is steadily rising. It will also serve — thanks to the completeness of carefully collected data — as an indispensable reference source for zoologists in general, and especially for parasitologists, protozoologists and insect pathologists, and can be therefore recommended to all interested readers.

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