

# H. H. Reichenbach-Klinke: Krankheiten der Reptilien.

2. Aufl., Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart—New York 1977, 228 pp., 194 Figs., 2 Plates. Price 74 DM.

In the last years the reptile breeding is becoming more and more intensive and important, both in the scientific laboratories where reptiles serve as the study and test objects or are used for poison production, and in the zoological gardens or private terraria of nature lovers. Like any other organism the reptiles suffer from many diseases and pathological changes the descriptions of which are scattered in a number of periodicals, often hardly available. For this reason there was a pressing lack of a publication compiling the latest knowledge in this field. A book of this sort is the work by Prof. Dr. H. H. Reichenbach-Klinke, which is republished after 15 years as an extended and completely revised edition.

The monograph is divided into 9 chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the examination techniques, needs for the quality of the material intended for examination, observations of the diseases, narcotizing, killing and dissection, histological examination of individual organs and observations of the digestive tract. The second chapter deals with infectious diseases, viroses, bacterioses and mycoses. Parasitic infections caused by protozoa, helminths and arthropods are described in the third chapter. Subsequent 3 chapters cover symbiotic organisms, non-parasitic diseases and damages provoked by the environment (tumours, arteriosclerosis, deficiency diseases, injuries caused by physical factors, poisoning) and anomalies. The seventh chapter gives information about prevention of diseases. It describes immunity processes in reptiles, curing of wounds and their regeneration, treatment of the most frequent diseases by various methods including prophylaxis, diagnosis and therapy. The eighth chapter deals with the medical importance of reptiles to man, chapter IX contains a list of Latin, German and English names of the most abundant reptile species. At the end of the publication the author and subject indexes are appended.

Arrangement of the book entirely corresponds to various aspects of the reptile diseases pro-

blems. Individual chapters present information on many concrete data and are accompanied by numerous illustrative drawings and photographs made partly in colour. Each part of the text is appended with a relevant bibliography. With regard to a wide range of problems discussed, the book benefitted from the co-authorship of other specialists — Dr. E. Elkan, Dr. W. Ahne, Dr. J. Cooper and Dr. B. Ollenschläger. The part concerning parasites is the most extensive one and it includes more than 100 pages. The individual taxa are briefly characterized and arranged according to the zoological system, main attention is paid to a survey of the species parasitizing various reptiles. Since these surveys could not be provided with keys for determination and do not represent a complete list of the parasite species of individual groups, they give only a mere idea about the species richness in individual taxa. An attentive reader may find several shortcomings in the publication, such as diacritic marks in Latin names of taxa, as if double subgeneric name — p. 136, the species of the genus *Ophiotes* belong to the family Ophiotidae, not to the family Myobiidae, the statement that all species of chiggers are ectoparasites — p. 135, which is negated in the subsequent text, misspelling of some Latin names — *Halipegus mehransis* — p. 74, *H. mebraniis* — p. 222 etc.

This volume in general is a very important and needed work, logically well-arranged and containing a number of data. The text is accompanied by suitable pictures and appropriate photographs. Also a great amount of references cited, though based mainly of Anglo-Saxon literature, may be positively evaluated. Of value is the final survey of the species in three languages. The printing quality is of high level. The publication will certainly meet with a favourable response of the specialists of various branches — zoologists, veterinarians, parasitologists, breeders and all those concerned with different aspects of life of reptiles.

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