D. W. Roberts, M. A. Strand (Eds.): Pathogens of medically important arthropods. *Bull. Wld Hlth Org. 55, Suppl. 1, Genève 1977, 419 pp. Price 11.25 $*

Pathogens of medically important arthropods have become the centre of the ever increasing interest of various researchers. No doubt, one of the reasons for this is the fact that some pathogens may be taken into account as means of biological control of some pests. Since the beginning of the sixties the considerably scattered literature on this topic has already called for a publication which would sum up knowledge collected to date. In 1964 Jenkins' compilation of relevant literature "Pathogens, parasites and predators of medically important arthropods" appeared as a Supplement to vol. 30 of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. Many years elapsed since the publication of this work, which was followed by numerous new papers and thus it became very necessary to compile another publication which would present the recent status. This task was taken up by a team of 25 specialists who prepared the reviewed book under the guidance of D. W. Roberts and M. A. Strand.

The text is elaborated according to a uniform scheme. For each arthropod group first there is a host-pathogen list, including data on host, host stage infected, pathogen, percentage incidence (in some instances LD_{50} or tissue infected), locality, whether laboratory or field studies, references. This is followed by a section entitled "Abstracts", in which the most important references are presented, accompanied by brief abstracts. Chapters I. (pathogens of Psychodidae), II—VIII (virus, bacterial, microsporidan, non-microsporidan, *Coelomomyces*, fungal and nematode pathogens of Culicidae), IX—XXI (pathogens of Ceratopogonidae, Simuliidae, Tabanidae, *Musca domestica* and *M. autumnalis*, *Stomoxys calcitrans*, *Glossina*, Siphonaptera, Blattidae, Anoplura and Mallophaga, Cimicidae, Reduviidae, Acarina, Ixodoidea) are dealt with in this way. Chapter IV is complemented by the synonymy of Microsporida affecting Culicidae. The final chapters XXII to XXX include pathogen—host lists and present a survey of pathogens, host group, host and references, separately for viruses, rickettsiae, bacteria, Protozoa other than Microsporida, Microsporida, Fungi other than *Coelomomyces*, *Coelomomyces*, Nematodes and other groups.

The volume includes about 1100 citations. Being an extensive work, it inevitably contains some inaccuracies (e.g. *Litomosoides carinii* and *Wuchereria bancrofti* — p. 418 — are not listed among nematodes) or incomplete information (e.g. up to 1975 *Encephalitozoon ixodis*, *Nosema slovaca* and *Trypanosoma* sp. were already known from *Ixodes ricinus*). As a whole, the book is a very useful work and its appearance should be appreciated. This valuable manual will certainly appeal to many laboratory and field workers.

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