

J. E. Keirans, C. M. Clifford: The genus *Ixodes* in the United States: a scanning electron microscope study and key to the adults. *J. Med. Entomol. Supplement No. 2, Honolulu 1978, 149 pp., 525 Figs. Price 12 \$.*

The scanning electron microscope has proved to be useful in biology primarily in studies of morphological structures, consequently involving also taxonomic conclusions. The reviewed book serves as an example of the way this method is used, and is primarily of pictorial character. Over 500 photomicrographs of very good quality show morphological details, particularly of capitulum, scutum, spiracle and coxae of 35 North American species. The SEM pictures were very well applied in the introductory key to both sexes. In the following part of the book the species are arranged alphabetically and with each are given the synonymy, distribution, hosts, citation of original literature

for descriptions of adults, nymphs, and larvae, type-host and type-locality. The authors adhere to their systematic division of the genus, not recognizing *Ixodiopsis* and *Trichotoixodes* as distinct subgenera. Finally, the geographical distribution of the genus *Ixodes* in different states of the USA, depositories for type specimens of North American species, literature, index to tick species and index to hosts are presented.

It is a very successful publication which, in its brief form, provides important contemporary information for all who are engaged in the studies of ticks.

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