

F. Schwerdtfeger: Lehrbuch der Tierökologie, Verlag Paul Parey, Hamburg und Berlin 1978, 384 pp., 164 Figs. Price 48.—DM.

The modern parasitologist cannot do without good ecological knowledge. Ecology as a precisely formulated discipline has become a school subject taught in different forms at secondary schools and universities. The scientific field of ecological parasitology and the affiliated environmental parasitology or parasitocenology have become recognized scientific disciplines of parasitological science with exceptional theoretical and practical importance.

Every parasitologist therefore should welcome this edition of a very comprehensive and concisely compiled textbook of animal ecology by one of the top scientists-ecologists and zoologists, Prof. em. Dr. Dr.h.c. F. Schwerdtfeger. The textbook is based on the author's previous work which has already gained fame as a classic, "Ökologie der Tiere", Hamburg und Berlin, 1963, published in three volumes: I. Autökologie, II. Demökologie and III. Synökologie. The reviewed textbook in German language "Lehrbuch der Tierökologie" is an abbreviated edition of the above-mentioned work.

At present, ecology is in the process of rapid development. Terminology used by different ecological schools, be it Soviet, English, American or German, is being unified, but despite this each author often retains his individual approach. I consider it an asset of the book that Prof. Schwerdtfeger, while presenting and explaining his concepts, adheres to his own approach. This applies, for example, to his explanation of the term "Parasitie". "Wenn überhaupt möglich, ist die Eignung, einem Schmarotzer als Wirt zu dienen, noch weiter verbreitet als die, einem Räuber Beute zu sein. Es dürfte kaum Tiere geben, die nicht von Parasiten befallen werden können". (p. 135). He also explains the parasitization effects, the term „Pathogenie" (p. 137), prerequisites of infection and effects of infection (p. 138). The

subject of ecology studies and particular ecological concepts are very comprehensively elucidated in the book.

The entire subject matter is divided into the sections: "Autökologie", "Demökologie", "Synökologie" and "Produktivität". Each section is subdivided into particular topically complete paragraphs which are very well graphically arranged which makes orientation in the book very easy. Moreover, this orientation is facilitated by the excellent pedagogical presentation of the most intricate concepts. Valuable is the section concerned with anthropogenic effects on environment such as agriculture, ploughing, pasturing, soil fertilization, irrigation and land-reclamation, urbanization etc. This section is also of high interest to the parasitologist.

It is only to be regretted that the author omitted in his comprehensive work such concepts as e.g. synanthropy and exoanthropy of animals, natural focality of diseases, although he could avail himself of the English translation of the excellent ecology book by Naumov (The Ecology of Animals, 750 pp., Urbana—Chicago—London 1972) cited in the list of literature on p. 370. The knowledge of ecological problems is of key importance for the protection of nature and the protection of environment, for the prevention and control of parasitoses. The textbook is intended for biologists, zoologists, but it will also be very useful to every one who wishes to be informed about particular ecological phenomena, their dynamic influence and their importance to man.

It is a scientifically precise and up-to-date, very readable book which will play an important part in the promotion of ecology in different scientific disciplines. In this respect it should prove a real success.

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