

а изоляции размножения популяций, авторы выводят, что специфический анализ маммомоногамид убедителен только в том случае, что он сделан на основе таксономических опытов специального направления.

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## D. W. T. Crompton, S. M. Joyner: Parasitic Worms.

Wykeham Publications (London) Ltd., London 1980, 207 pp., 204 Figs. Price £ 5.00.

This book appeared as the 57th volume of The Wykeham Science Series. According to the authors it is an introduction into helminthology for students who have no or partial knowledge of parasitology. It presents a brief survey of the available information on the complicated relationships between parasitic worms and their living environment. Various aspects of helminth biology and some general characters of parasitism are described and discussed using many examples. A zoological approach is used in elucidation of these complicated problems. The book is written in a brief and clear manner and the mode of compilation suggests that the authors applied here their rich scientific and pedagogic experience. Numerous figures and schemes (mostly taken from the literature) contribute to better understanding of the text, similarly as the glossary at the end of the book

explaining some biological terms which were not defined in the text.

The book is divided into ten major chapters which are further subdivided according to the questions discussed. In the first, introductory chapter the concept of parasitism is explained and is characterized as a dynamic relationship between living organisms where all necessary energy and nutrition of both partners are supplied by the host. Also the classification of parasitic worms (helminths) and their position within the animal kingdom are dealt with. This group of parasites includes three animal phyla — Platyhelminthes (classes Trematoda and Cestoda), Acanthocephala and Aschhelminthes (class Nematoda). For each phylum are given its characteristics, main groups of representatives, morphology, adaptation to parasitic way of living, living conditions and hosts. In the

class Nematoda the authors mention not only the forms parasitic in vertebrates, but also species parasitizing invertebrates and plants. The life cycles of helminths are stressed throughout the book as a basic and most important information for the possible control of helminthoses. The second chapter dealing with the life cycles presents a survey of some types of life cycles of these parasites and the necessity of ecological approach in the study of these questions is pointed out. The course of parasitic infection is discussed as well. The problems of transmission and infection are the subject of the next chapter. Like in papers by most of the contemporary authors, "transmission" is understood in a wider ecological sense, i.e. that it describes events occurring during the helminth life cycle after leaving one host and before contact with another one. The authors explain mechanisms ensuring the transmission of helminths and describe the morphology and behaviour of various infective stages, role of intermediate hosts, mechanisms of infection in various groups of these parasites and significance of ecological factors in their transmission and invasion. The following chapters are devoted to the question of worm distribution in their hosts, their food and nutrition, energetic metabolism, reproduction (maturation, mating behaviour, co-

pulation and fertilization, release of eggs etc.), aspects of ontogenetic development in individual helminth classes and questions of host resistance and allergic reactivity to parasitic worms. In the last tenth chapter entitled "Worms and man" the authors discuss the prevalence of helminth infections in man, human behaviour in relation to helminth diseases, pathology (particularly ascariasis, hookworm disease, filariasis and schistosomiasis are dealt with), economic aspects of helminthoses and methods of their control. In addition to the mentioned glossary, the book is complemented with a list of references and supplementary literature, list of worm species mentioned in the text with reference to the page number and subject index.

In general, the volume can be highly appreciated, since it presents to the reader in a brief, understandable and well arranged form the most important present information of this group of parasites. It is intended particularly to students of the first year in the university, but it will be of value also to older students and university teachers of parasitology and zoology and may become a useful tool for biologists, zoologists, and specialists in human and veterinary medicine.

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