

M. W. Service: A Guide to Medical Entomology. *The Macmillan Press Ltd., London and Basingstoke 1980, 226 pp., 163 Figs. Price £ 16.00.*

The new publications dealing with medical entomology which continue to appear show the significance of this branch. Among them belongs also the manual published in the series Macmillan Tropical and Sub-Tropical Medical Texts. As it is stressed by the author, it is intended for readers from various branches of medicine who have no specialized knowledge of medical entomology and its aim is to provide basic information regarding the recognition of arthropod vectors of disease, their biology and role in the transmission of diseases to man, and to present a guide to their control. The book is divided into 28 chapters. The first two chapters are the introduction to medical entomology and to arthropods. Chapters 3—14 are devoted to the representatives of the order Diptera, particularly mosquitoes. The following five chapters deal with Siphonaptera, Anoplura, Cimicidae, Triatominae and Dictyoptera. Chapters 20—24 are concerned with acarology including Argasidae, Ixodidae, Sarcoptidae, Trombiculidae and miscellaneous mites of minor medical importance. Poisonous, venomous and allergic arthropods are dealt with in Chapter 25. Next two chapters describe the methods for dissecting, collecting and preserving medically important arthropods. The last chapter is devoted to insecticides and insecticide resistance. The book is completed by a list of references to individual chapters and a common alphabetical list of names and subject index.

For each group are given the main species, distribution, morphology, biology, medical importance and methods of control. The facts are properly chosen and well arranged and the whole text suggests that it was written by an experienced specialist. The division of the subject serves for a good orientation of the reader and gives him the most important data on the

arthropods and their mode of living, as well as on the methods of their collection and dissection. Attention is paid also to the common insecticides. The whole book is based on the most recent knowledge of the subject. The figures deserve an appreciation, as they are numerous and true to nature, in spite of a certain schematization. It should be mentioned, however, that this schematization is sometimes to the prejudice of the correctness, as it is the case, e.g., of the chaetotaxy in Fig. 24.5. Some inaccuracies and misspellings, e.g., in Latin names, escaped attention, which is quite understandable in such a comprehensive volume. The correct spelling should be *Tyrophagus* (p. 19), *Ornithomya* (p. 20), *maculae coeruleae* (p. 141), *Blattella* (p. 150). It is true that the correct derivation from the Greek should be *Phthirus*, but nomenclatorically valid is only *Pthirus* (p. 136). Also *D. pictus* is no more valid (p. 160). There should be *Francisella* (= *Pasteurella*) *tularensis* and not the contrary (p. 127 and others). The illustration of the dorsal pigmentation in *Dermacentor* (p. 161) is incorrect. The enamel pigmented colouring is present in the whole conscutum in male, but only in scutum in female. The genus *Amblyomma* is not distributed in Europe (p. 164). *Pyemotes ventricosus* is a species which has been traditionally mentioned in the manuals as a parasite of man (p. 176). In fact, however, it is in most cases the species *P. zwoelferi*. The second man-infesting species of *Demodex* — *D. brevis* was omitted in the text (p. 175).

In spite of some critical remarks it can be said that the book under review is of a high quality and fully suits the purpose. It will undoubtedly become a useful manual supplying the readers with the most important recent knowledge in medical entomology.

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