

B. Fried, T.K. Graczyk (Eds.): *Advances in Trematode Biology*. CRC Press, Boca Raton - New York, 1997, ISBN 0-8493-2645-1, hard cover. 466 pp., 24 figs., 16 tables.

This book deals with modern trends in trematode research. It is divided into thirteen chapters; each of them contains references related to the subject and, in certain cases, very informative tables and figures. While the book does not cover systematics of trematodes, it points out physiological, biochemical and molecular adaptations of flukes to their hosts and to their external environment, thus contributing to an understanding of host-parasite relationships.

The introductory chapters are centred on general biology and life cycles of trematodes. Particular developmental stages and body organs are presented and the most important characteristics are underlined. Although descriptions of different body forms and life cycle modes are reduced and partly simplified (in order to balance general and specific information throughout the book), they give a clear overview to the readers.

Specialized chapters are focused on the structure and function of the alimentary tract, reproductive physiology and behaviour of digenetic trematodes, physiology and biochemistry of snail-larval trematode relationships, host recognition by trematode miracidia and cercariae, specificity and immunobiology of larval digenean-snail associations, proteases of trematodes, biochemistry of trematodes, trematode neurobiology, immunobiology of trematodes in vertebrate hosts, and molecular biology of trematodes. Although the list of topics being covered (and their sequence) clearly demon-

strates that there is not a unifying motif running throughout the book and particular chapters are rather independent, the book as a whole represents a comprehensive source of information on trematodes. In certain cases (function of the alimentary tract), other helminth groups (monogeneans) are also described. Considering the current opinions on the systematics and phylogeny of parasitic flatworms (Neodermata), the inclusion of monogeneans to this book, which deals with trematodes, does not seem to be appropriate.

Most parts of the book are centred on general biology (life cycles, physiology, molecular biology) of trematodes. However, there are also some "applied" subchapters (e.g. control of trematode infections, cultivation of trematodes) which, although very useful, do not fully correspond to this approach.

In our view, the high quality of this book results from the selection of renowned co-authors who represent the best in particular trematode research fields (e.g., Aloysius Tielens in biochemistry, Wilfried Haas in host-finding and -recognition, Eric Loker in snail-trematode immunobiology). Unfortunately, research progresses quickly and at present some data may be seen as incomplete (e.g. proteases of trematodes, molecular biology of trematodes). Nevertheless, this book should still be considered a quality work which links morphological and molecular views on trematodes and is an excellent source of knowledge for biologists and parasitologists involved in any field of trematode study.

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