

BOOK REVIEW

F. Moravec: Metazoan Parasites of Salmonid Fishes of Europe. *Academia, Prague, 2004.*

ISBN 80-200-1189-7, hardback, 510 pp. Price not given.

The latest book by the world-renowned expert in fish nematodes, Dr. František Moravec, published by the Academia, Prague, Czech Republic, is another excellent publication in the series of author's books, such as *Parasitic Nematodes of Freshwater Fishes of Europe*, *Nematodes of Freshwater Fishes of the Neotropical Region* and *Trichinelloid Nematodes Parasitic in Cold-Blooded Vertebrates*, published in 1994, 1998 and 2001, respectively. This monograph discusses professional views on important issues of metazoan parasites occurring in the salmonids of Europe. It also provides the most recent scientific knowledge on the subject, as well as the author's own experience and insights.

The monograph deals in detail with all groups of metazoan parasites in European salmonids, providing data particularly on their taxonomy, biology and ecology. The characteristics of individual groups, together with detailed descriptions and illustrations for each parasite species, are provided. Besides the extensive data on taxonomy and morphology, the author gathered a number of other facts with respect to the host spectrum, localisation, distribution and life cycles of these parasites. The well-arranged text is supplemented with many vivid original and redrawn illustrations, enabling an easy orientation in different systematic groups.

The book is organised into six main sections. The first one, the Introduction, briefly reviews key characteristics of the host group, the family Salmonidae, including a large spectrum of freshwater and migratory fishes of great importance to sport and commercial fishery. The author explains the significance of the parasites, which may cause considerable economic losses in wild and cultured fish populations. The importance

of parasitic organisms as models for addressing a number of theoretical questions of general biology, zoogeography and phylogeny is also provided. The introductory part is followed by a list of metazoan parasites of salmonid fishes in Europe. The next chapter comprises a systematic review of 156 parasite species belonging to 82 genera and 51 families, and is also the most comprehensive. All the main groups of fish metazoan parasites are included, i.e. monogeneans, cestodes, trematodes, nematodes, acanthocephalans, leeches, molluscs, crustaceans and mites. This part represents an excellent modern key, which enables reliable identification of parasite species collected from both indigenous and introduced salmonid fishes of Europe. The book is supplemented with a host-parasite list and completed with an index of scientific names of animals and synonyms. The list of references includes about 570 papers, making a good overview of publications concerning the metazoan parasites of salmonids.

The reader has a unique opportunity to get a publication which represents an invaluable source of rich information. The publication is essential for researchers in the field of parasitology, freshwater and marine ecology, teachers of biology, veterinarians, students, as well as administrators and politicians professionally engaging in parasitology and ecology-related disciplines. It will also be of interest to ichthyologists and museum curators. Both the author and the publisher are to be congratulated on publishing this book as a weighty contribution to scientific literature.

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