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Received October 10, 2000; revised January 29, 2001; accepted February 2, 2001

*Eur. J. Entomol.* **98**: 150, 2001  
ISSN 1210-5759

## BOOK REVIEW

BRUCE F. ELDRIDGE & JOHN D. EDMAN (eds): *MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY. A Textbook on Public Health and Veterinary Problems Caused by Arthropods*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston, London, 2000, x + 659 pp. ISBN 0-7923-6320-5. Price GBP 160.00, USD 260.00.

Twenty-two authors, from various American universities and research institutes, participated in the compilation of this well-arranged university textbook which is divided into 15 chapters.

The first three chapters are devoted to problems in general entomology and in only 97 pages the authors succeed to concentrate all the information necessary for understanding the following chapters. The fourth chapter deals with direct injury inflicted by arthropods on man and his domestic animals, e. g. poisoning due to insect toxins, allergies, myiasis, etc. The remaining chapters are devoted directly or indirectly to the role of arthropods as vectors and the particular diseases transmitted by arthropods. There are two general chapters on the mechanisms of transmission and its various forms as well as the epidemiology of diseases transmitted by arthropods. Chapters 7–11 are structured around the taxonomic classification of particular pathogenic organisms. Each of these chapters starts with a brief characterisation of a given group, its biology, list of main vectors and brief history, and includes an account of the pathology,

clinical aspects, epidemiology, prevention and control. Numerous well-chosen pictures supplement the text. Detailed descriptions of the ecology of the main vectors and their biology including the parasite-vector interaction are also illustrated with pictures. The twelfth chapter deals with mechanical transmission, its variation and relevant vector species. The last three chapters are devoted to the “Surveillance of Arthropodborne Diseases”, “Management of Arthropodborne Diseases by Vector Control” and “Prevention and Control of Arthropodborne Diseases”. Each chapter has a comprehensive bibliography and the book ends with a “Subject Index” and a “Scientific Names Index”.

Although this book presents an enormous quantity of information it is written in a readable and easily intelligible language. This is especially important for students for whose mother tongue is not English. In fact this book is one of the best textbooks I have ever read. I have no doubt this book will become the standard textbook in medical entomology not only in the United States and English-speaking countries but all over the world.

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