

## BOOK REVIEW

WALL R. & SHEARER D.: VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY. ARTHROPOD PARASITES OF VETERINARY IMPORTANCE. Chapman & Hall, London, 1997, xvi + 439 pp. ISBN 0-412-61510-X. Paperback. Price GBP 29.99.

Ectoparasitic species of mites, ticks and a few insect orders that infest domestic animals are the subject of this book. The relative importance of particular arthropod groups as animal pests differs from that of human pests, thus the scope of this book is slightly different from those uniting veterinary entomology with medical entomology. There is a long chapter on mites living on and in the animal skin, causing pruritus, erythema, mange, and cutaneous hypersensitivity; chronic and often neglected, but possibly severe, illnesses. A non-specialist will be surprised by the huge number of mite species that may be found on domestic animals – although some of them are a normal part of skin fauna.

Ticks are also treated in detail. Their pest status is based on three phenomena: local effects of their blood sucking, paralysis of an animal by their neurotoxins, and disease transmission. Some adult dipterans are blood suckers, causing local skin irritations, but together with non-biting muscids, also transmit diseases and parasites. Among several important dipteran families, the mosquitoes, which in other books are dealt with extensively, are treated here only briefly. A great attention is paid to myiasis – a disease caused by endoparasitic larvae of Oestridae, Calliphoridae, and Sarcophagidae.

Fleas are ectoparasites only in the adult stage, and attack dogs, cats, rabbits, and poultry, while they are rarely found on big, free-range animals. In contrast, lice (Phthiraptera) are common on cattle, sheep, and many other such animals. They may be a normal part of skin fauna, but heavy infestation

may cause problems in young animals. Anopluran lice suck blood, but other lice may also feed on feathers, fur, and skin scales, causing severe irritation. They are also vectors of some tapeworms and other parasites and diseases.

The book commences with basic information on morphology, anatomy, physiology, reproduction, and classification of arthropods. Each of the taxonomically delimited chapters contains a detailed description of morphology and life history of the group, overall characterisation of its pathology, and a recognition guide (simplified identification key) of important species. The morphology, life cycle, and pathology of those species are then treated in detail and illustrated by instructive drawings. Each chapter provides a list of recommended further reading.

There is a short description of diagnostic and control methods. Diagnosis and selection of the proper treatment for parasites on major domestic animals (cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, goats, dogs, cats, smaller mammals, and birds) is facilitated by including the last summarizing chapter. For each of the animals there is a list of known parasitic diseases with indication of clinical features, diagnosis of the agent, and recommended treatment. The book is accompanied with glossary of scientific terms for non-specialists, and with index including scientific and common names of the parasites, hosts, diseases, and other subjects.

Although focused on parasites of common domestic animals in northern temperate region, the book is a useful guide for a wide audience. It is recommended both to students and teachers of acarology and entomology and to practising veterinarians. The information is easy to find and is clearly presented.

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