

## BOOK REVIEW

SERVICE M.W.: MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY FOR STUDENTS. Chapman & Hall, London, 1996, 278 pp. ISBN-0-412-71230-X. Price GBP 37.50.

Michael W. Service, Professor of Medical Entomology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, has written a new textbook, dedicated to insects, mites and ticks of medical importance. As mentioned in the preface, the book is aimed at students, whether they be physicians, nurses, health officials, community health workers or those studying for a Master's degree in parasitology or medical entomology. Its aim is to provide basic information on the recognition, biology and medical importance of arthropods and guidelines for their control.

The book is divided into 20 chapters, each dedicated to one insect or mite family or subfamily: Black flies, Phlebotomine sandflies, Biting midges, Horseflies, Tsetse-flies, House-flies and stable-flies, Fleas, Lice, Bedbugs, Triatomine bugs, Cockroaches, Scabies mites and scrub typhus mites. The only exception is for the mosquitoes, which are discussed in three chapters, and ticks, in which the soft and hard ticks are separated into two chapters. One chapter is dedicated to flies and myiasis and the other includes miscellaneous mites, such as Demodicidae, Pyroglyphidae and other mites (*Pyemotes* and some gamasids). External morphology, life cycle, ecology and behaviour, medical importance and control or treatment are discussed in each chapter and closed with a list of most important literature recommended for further reading. The text is accompanied by numerous instructive figures of good quality (with exception of Fig. 17.1)

The book brings a lot of very interesting and important information on all the main groups of medically important arthropods. The author was successful in his decision of how much detail to

include in the text. The book is well balanced in all chapters. Only in the case of the three chapters concerning mosquitoes, which occupy 81 pages (more than one quarter of the whole book), this balance seems to be broken. However, we must agree with the author's opinion, that these insects are undoubtedly the most important arthropod vectors and that the information given is appropriate, even if mosquitoes are the main interest of the author. It is creditable that the author includes also mites and ticks in his book, which are excluded from some books on medical entomology. The information on these arthropods is of the same importance as that on medically important insects. Unfortunately, these chapters are relatively brief, omitting some important data on several groups of mites (e.g. on the genus *Cheyletiella* causing human cheyletiellosis, on mites of stored products causing several kinds of allergies etc.). In the chapter on soft ticks, only the *Ornithodoros moubata* complex is described as a representative of the family, and no mention is given on the genus *Argas*, the important genus penetrating into flats in rural environment and attacking humans in the temperate zone. Nevertheless, these chapters are of great value and give enough information on these arthropods.

Mike W. Service's textbook on medical entomology for students is an excellent, well-arranged work, bringing together much basic information and some selective details on all important groups of arthropods of medical importance. It should be recommended not only for students of different biological and medical disciplines, but also to graduated non specialists as the first important source of information. Prof. M.W. Service must be congratulated for this excellent book.

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