

GODDARD, J. 1999. Infectious diseases and arthropods. Humana Press; Totowa, NJ. xvi + 231 p. ISBN 0-89603-825-4. Hardback. \$75.00.

This book is about entomological medicine rather than medical entomology. Its focus is etiology, diagnosis, and prevention and treatment of the infectious diseases transmitted to people by arthropods. Some of it is based on articles that its author published in 1996-1999 in volumes of "Infections in Medicine," and other parts are newly written. In that journal, each article focused on a disease. In this book, diseases (protozoan, bacterial, viral, and filarial) are grouped in chapters under headings mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, etc. It has more detail about diseases known from the U.S.A. than about diseases occurring in other parts of the world. It deals with possibilities of travellers arriving in the U.S.A. with diseases acquired elsewhere. Its information is up-to-date, including recent information about Lyme disease and the forms of Ehrlichiosis, and it provides a reference source for physicians and public health workers.

I wonder whether this kind of information is as close as physicians and public health workers get to a text on entomology. The author makes the point that during an outbreak of St. Louis Encephalitis, which is transmitted by *Culex quinquefasciatus* in the southern U.S.A. (except Florida), a public health worker visiting a rural community told the local people to remove containers (cans, tires, etc.) that accumulated rainwater. That public health worker was spreading misinformation and doing nothing to help control the disease, because the habitat of *C. quinquefasciatus* larvae is marshes with emergent vegetation. I heard a public health worker speaking on public television in Florida pass similar misinformation about West Nile Virus, a disease which only in late 1999 was recognized in the U.S.A. (too late to mention in this book).

Medical entomologists should have a far better appreciation of the entomology of disease vectors, and for them the book may provide additional information on the diseases. Its illustrations are black and white drawings and photographs, some of them not very well reproduced; shading and lettering on some figures is blurred, to the point where a map on p. 46 is hard to interpret. The introductory statement about La-Crosse Encephalitis (p. 52) seems to have been truncated. Typographical errors include "autochthonus" (p. 24), "W.B. herms" (p. 25), "sporozoties" (p. 36), "Psorophora columbia" (p. 45), "Boliva" (p. 62), "platlets" (p. 92), and "likliehood" (p. 157).

In addition to the chapters on arthropod groups as disease vectors, there is a 14-page introductory chapter on arthropods, and a section of 4 brief chapters on other arthropod-caused or related problems. The first is on myiasis, the second on delusory parasitosis, the third on medical conditions caused by arthropod stings or bites, and the fourth on "Why mosquitoes cannot transmit HIV." Two appendices and an index round out the book. The first appendix is an alphabetical list of symptoms of disease, and the second briefly describes 11 tests diagnostic of diseases.

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