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## BOOKS, NON-PERIODICALS AND CONFERENCES

(abstracts and titles of helminthological papers in collected works appear in the relevant sections of this and other parts of *Helminthological Abstracts*)

**1580** AYENSU, E. S. **Medicinal plants of West Africa.** Algonac, Michigan, USA; Reference Publications Inc. (1978) 330 pp. ISBN 0-917256-07-7 [En, 61 ref., 127 fig.]

This book lists 187 species of reported medicinal plants that occur in West Africa. As far as possible the local names have been supplied in addition to the standard scientific names. Plant species are arranged alphabetically according to family. The medicinal uses of the various parts of the plants are listed. In addition to an index of species there is a medicinal index, which lists the plant names under the complaint to be treated. This includes entries for anthelmintic, ascaricide, filaria, guinea worm, hookworm, malaria, mosquitoes, parasiticide, roundworms, sleeping sickness, taenifuge, trypanosomiasis, vermifuge and worms. Each use has a number referring to the literature cited in the bibliography. CWG

**1581** BROWN, D. S. **Freshwater snails of Africa and their medical importance.** London, UK; Taylor & Francis Ltd. (1980) x + 487 pp. ISBN 0-85066-145-5 [En, Price £25.00] British Museum (Natural History), London, UK.

Although Africa has fewer species of freshwater gastropod molluscs (less than 400 species) in comparison to other regions (571 for Europe) many millions of Africans and their livestock suffer from schistosomiasis, fascioliasis and other trematode diseases. Efforts to control parasitic snail-borne diseases depend to a great extent on knowledge of the freshwater snails which serve as intermediate hosts for the parasites. The purposes of this book are to give a comprehensive systematic account of the freshwater gastropod Mollusca living in Africa, to summarize what is known about their biology and distribution and to indicate the parts they play in the life-cycles of trematode parasites commonly found in man and his livestock.

The book has 11 main chapters in addition to the general introduction and index. The first 3 chapters provide a systematic survey of the freshwater snails of Africa, including keys for the identification of families and genera and essential information for nearly 400 species, almost all illustrated by photographs or line drawings. Subsequent chapters provide reviews of: snails and *Schistosoma* spp.; other snail-borne diseases; the biology of *Bulinus*; snail control; local faunas; chemical and physical factors; reproduction and growth; populations and reproduction; regional faunas and biogeography. An appendix summarizes experimental methods used in studying snails. The quality of the photographs and drawings is high and there are several distribution maps.

The book is well written by an author who has done long periods of field work in Africa and benefited from an association with the enormous traditional resources of the British Museum (Natural History) and its staff. This book must be welcomed as a synthesis of data on the freshwater snails of Africa, and a very valuable one at that, containing a wealth of personal experience of the subject. It should be a valuable reference work for malacologists, parasitologists, epidemiologists, freshwater biologists and biogeographers. It is regretted however that its price of £25.00 will remove it from the reach of many of the Africans who would benefit from it. LFK

**1582** DJEBALI, M. **[*Fasciola hepatica* infection in sheep in Tunisia. Therapeutic trials.]** La fasciolose ovine en Tunisie. Essais thérapeutiques. *Thesis, Ecole Nationale Veterinaire, Alfort, France.* (1977) 56 pp. [Fr, 51 ref.]

The parasitology and epidemiology of *Fasciola hepatica* in Tunisia are discussed and details of trials of the anthelmintics rafoxanide (7.5 mg/kg), nitroxynil (10 mg/kg) and niclofolan (4 mg/kg) for the control of *F. hepatica* infection in sheep are given. Rafoxanide gave the greatest reduction in the number of eggs over the test period of 8 weeks. CLMA

**1583** DUBININA, M. N. **Tapeworms (Cestoda, Ligulidae) of the fauna of the USSR.** [Translated from the Russian]. New Delhi, India; Amerind Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd. (1980) vii + 320 pp. [En, Available from: US Dep. Commerce, Nat. Tech. Inf. Serv., Springfield, Va 22161, USA.]

This monographic work on the Ligulidae of the USSR was originally published in Russian in 1966 [see *Helminthological Abstracts 36,* 3183]. It deals with the history, morphology, life-cycle, specificity and phylogeny of members of the family, and their pathology and control in fish. A key to the genera and species occurring in birds and fish in the USSR is included. The English translation reads easily and follows closely the original text; generally the figures have been extremely well reproduced. The book is illustrated by 160 figures, plates and graphs and by 12 tables; references occupy 34 pages. GIP

**1584** GODAN, D. **[Harmful snails and their control.]** Schadschnecken und ihre Bekampfung. Stuttgart, GFR; Verlag Eugen Ulmer GmbH & Co. (1979) 467 pp. ISBN 3-8001-3044-0 [De, 12 pl. (unpaged)] Biol. Bundesanstalt f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Braunschweig, Berlin-Dahlem, GFR.

This monograph gives a comprehensive account of snails which are harmful to man, animals or plants. It is designed for scientists working on plant protection and similar problems, for doctors and veterinarians, and for students. The first section (pp. 13-98) describes the snails and their physiology, distribution and classification. Snails act as intermediate hosts for many important helminth parasites. The second section (pp. 99-177) describes the harmful effects of snails, particularly on plants. The third section (pp. 178-386) discusses the control of snails by molluscicides and by biological methods. Pages 316-323 describe the protozoa (amoebae, sporozoa and ciliates) which infect snails and pages 323-341 describes their helminths, particularly those which use snails as intermediate hosts. These parasites are discussed mainly in connection with the biological control of snails. There are 65 pages of references given in full. The book is well printed and well illustrated and will be very valuable as a source of information about snails to all parasitologists whose work concerns these animals. FH

**1585** GONÇALVES DE ARAÚJO, A. J. **[A contribution to the study of helminths from archaeological material in Brazil.]** Contribuição ao estudo de helmintos encontrados em material arqueológico no Brasil. Thesis, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (1980) [vi] + 55 pp. [Pt, en, 97 ref.]

Examination of 36 coprolites from caves in Minas Gerais State, Brazil, dated at about 3500 to 450 years B.P. revealed ova of *Trichuris* and ancylostome ova and larvae. The difficulties of establishing a human origin for coprolites are discussed and the questions raised by this apparent demonstration of pre-Columbian hookworm are considered. Other caves yielded numerous lizard coprolites dated at about 9 000 years B.P., which contained *Parapharyngodon* sp. ova. These ova were compared with those obtained from living *Tropidurus* in the same area. PSG

**1586** ILLESCAS GOMEZ, P. **[Helminth parasites of birds from the Province of Granada.]** Helmintos parásitos de las aves de la provincia de Granada. Granada, Spain; Caja General de Ahorros y Monte de Piedad de Granada Seminario de Estudios. (1977) 211 pp. ISBN 84-7231-452-9 [Es, 233 ref.]

The helminths found in 1714 birds of 89 species from the Granada region of Spain are tabulated as cestodes, nematodes, trematodes and acanthocephalans. The over-all prevalence of infection was 32.1%. 19 species of cestode are described and figured as follows: *Paricterotaenia coronata* and *P. mesacantha* in *Burhinus oedicnemus*; *Anomotaenia praecox* in *Delichon urbica: A. brachycolpos* and *A. depresoides* in *Apus apus; Anomotaenia stentorea* in *Vanellus vanellus; Vitta rustica* in *D. urbica; Anonchotaenia globata* in *Fringilla coelebs; Rhabdometra nigropunctata* in *Alectoris rufa; Paruterina isonciphora* in *Apus apus; Choanotaenia passerina* in *Passer domesticus; C. microphalos* in *Vanellus vanellus: Diorchis inflata* in *Fulica atra; Haploparaksis filum* in *Gallinago gallinago; Mayhewia ababili* in *Hirundo rustica; M. serpentulus* in *Turdus phylomelos; Passerilepis stylosa* in *Pica pica; Dubinolepis multistriata* and *Tatria acanthorhyncha*, in *Podiceps ruficollis*. 10 of the species are new records for Spain. All of the descriptions contain some new material but considerable additions to the descriptions of *M. ababili, M. serpentulus, Passerilepis stylosa,*