



BOOK REVIEW

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Book Review

C. I. H. KEYS TO THE NEMATODE PARASITES OF VERTEBRATES

EDITED BY ROY C. ANDERSON, ALAIN G. CHABAUD and SHEILA WILMOTT

Published as a serial publication of the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology at 2.00 (\$5.20) each post free. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Road, Slough, Bucks, England SL2 3BN.

This continuing series is being prepared to fill the increasing need for up-to-date keys to the genera of parasitic nematodes of vertebrates. Each superfamily is being dealt with separately by an authority on the group and the keys, which are well illustrated by line drawings, are designed for use by non-specialists as well as specialists. Three numbers have already appeared:

No. 1. General Introduction

Glossary of Terms by Sheila Willmott

Key to Subclasses, Orders, and Superfamilies by Alain G. Chabaud

No. 2. Keys to Genera of the Ascaridoidea by Gerhard Hartwich

No. 3. Keys to Genera of the Order Spirurida by Alain G. Chabaud.

Part 1. Camallanoidea, Dracunculoidea, Gnathostomatoidea, Physalopteroides, Rictularioidea and Thelazioidea.

Part 2. Spiruroidea, Habronematoidea and Acuarioidea.

The following are in press (1976):

No. 4. Keys to genera of Oxyuroidea by A. Petter and I. C. Quentin.

No. 5. Keys to genera of Diplostriaenoidea, Aprocotoidea and Filarioidea by R. C. Anderson and O. Bain.

In 1977 the editors expect the Trichostrongyloidea and Metastrongyloidea to appear. In 3 years they shall have a total of 10 numbers which should cover all the superfamilies in about 400 pages. They will then come out with an index to the lot which could then be bound into a book. Total cost \$50.00.

The classic work of Yorke and Maplestone on "The Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates" has been the standard on taxonomy since its publication in late 1925. In the foreword to this text, Charles Wardell Stiles addressed his unborn colleague: "When you consult this book, you will find in it some views with which you will not agree. This will be the inevitable result of an advance in knowledge after the publication of this volume." All of us continued to use York and Maplestone, despite its shortcomings, because we had nothing better available. Now, fortunately, a team of extremely well-qualified experts has undertaken the formidable task of developing up-to-date keys to the taxa of parasitic nematodes of vertebrates. The results are well-written, beautifully illustrated, and can be effectively utilized by non-specialists as well as specialists. Their aim of easy and accurate identification of species, identification of their lines of evolution, and their affinities in order ultimately to arrive at a deeper understanding of the group being studied is an important consideration because systematic relationships, can, and often do, have a decisive influence on our approach to the immunology, physiology and chemotherapy of a group.

Dr. Stiles also charged this generation to "See that you do for the generation which follows you, what Yorke and Maplestone have done for you." The editors and contributors to these keys have effectively responded to this responsibility.

Charles P. Hibler