

was seen in the faecal samples from ostriches in this study.

In conclusion, examination of faeces from the wild ostriches kept extensively in the Mokolodi Nature Reserve revealed low nematode egg counts. If ostriches were to be farmed under such a system it is unlikely that endoparasites would cause problems. The possibility remains, however, of a build-up of these parasites in the presence of moist conditions that invariably prevail at the dam.

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The encyclopedia of arthropod-transmitted infections

Edited by M W Service

2002. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, United Kingdom, 579 pp. (with black and white illustrations and diagrams). Price £99.50. ISBN 0 85199473 3.

This encyclopedia is a well-referenced and authoritative collection of 150 concise descriptions of viral, bacterial, spirochaetal, protozoal and filarial arthropod-transmitted infections of humans and animals. The editor, assisted by a panel of five advisors, has succeeded and is to be commended on assembling the contributions of 88 authors to produce this informative reference work.

The selected infections have been alphabetically arranged and occasional cross-references enable the reader, accustomed to a common name of a disease, to find an appropriate entry under the corresponding scientific nomenclature. The texts of individual infections follow a fairly uniform structure of subheadings. There are, however, sufficient variation and change of emphasis for the casual reader to peruse the contents with ongoing interest. Major disease complexes such as malaria, theileriosis and animal trypanosomiasis are presented in greater detail and illustrate the broader implications of the parasite–host relationships.

The distribution, aetiology, clinical signs and diagnosis of each infection are covered in sufficient detail to enable the reader to recognise the condition and the circumstances under which it may occur. As the title of the encyclopedia would suggest, emphasis and more detail are devoted to the vectors, mode of transmission, life cycles and the host range which in many entries are illus-

trated by clear and simple diagrams. In addition to the descriptions of specific infections, brief overviews are included on the biology of arthropod families in which recognised vectors are classified, for example, the Ceratopogonidae and Glossinidae. Where relevant, potential mechanical vectors have been included in the descriptions.

This is a practical handbook reflecting the experience of the contributors, who have included recent developments in control measures, prophylactic immunisation where available, selection of therapeutic drugs and dosage regimes. Emerging diseases are well documented, and those of international and topical interest, including West Nile virus infection, Rift Valley Fever and other haemorrhagic fevers, will be found in the text. Historically established infections are included, with updated and relevant information on control strategies and their present status.

The contents of this book and the style of the text make it acceptable to both student and graduate in the disciplines of medicine, veterinary science and microbiology, while as a ready source of reference it will appeal to parasitologists, clinical virologists and human and animal health practitioners.

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