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Book review — Boekresensie

Fasciolosis

Edited by J P Dalton

2000. CABI Publishing, New York, and Oxford University Press, New York, 544 pp., hard cover. US\$ 160.00. ISBN 0 85199 260 9.

This book is outstanding and I recommend it without reservation, except for the rather high price. There are many aspects that make it well worth reading. Firstly, the editing by John Dalton was professionally executed. The chapters written by well-known and informed authors follow a logical sequence, each building on what has gone before. And the final chapter does a good job of filling the gaps in the previous chapters in this book and existing text books, which variously ignore *Fasciola gigantica* because of historical research biases towards *F. hepatica*. It is a beautifully balanced, clearly written textbook. It is on good paper; the layout is consistent throughout; there is a complete index; it is well referenced; the variations in illustration styles are not distracting, except perhaps the GIS maps of Ethiopia, which may originally have been in colour but become less instructive in too many shades of grey.

This book is encyclopaedic in its coverage of fasciolosis. The first five chapters have laid the groundwork – life cycle, intermediate development, development in the final host, epidemiology and control, prediction. This lays the foundation for pathology, fasciocide action and drug resistance, metabolism, neurobiology, immunology, new vaccines, human fasciolosis,

immunodiagnosis, and molecular biology. Finally, because all the previous chapters have emphasised *F. hepatica* for historical and geographical reasons, as this is a parasite of temperate regions and most researched, the last chapter revisits all the previous points but in respect to the present knowledge of *F. gigantica*, essentially a tropical fluke. The contributing authors are to be commended.

Reading this textbook, a number of points come to mind and obviously one can only select a few. Anyone bored with *F. hepatica* research should certainly head off into the barely charted waters of *F. gigantica*. On another tack, it is interesting to note that with the understandable exception of molecular biology, each chapter quotes historical references. The historical observations frequently carry the same weight as recent references, which inspires great confidence. I suspect it also reflects the scientific maturity of the writers involved in producing this book

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