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Book review — Boekresensie

Nematode parasites of vertebrates (2nd edition): their development and transmission

R C Anderson

2000. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, 672 pp., hard cover. US\$ 185. ISBN 0 85199 421 0.

The 1st edition of this book appeared in 1992, and summarised and synthesised the knowledge of the basic features of the development and transmission of the parasitic nematodes of vertebrates. This 2nd edition has kept the original aim in focus, which is to continue to place this information in the context of the modern classification as found in the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology (CIH) keys to the nematode parasites of vertebrates. This book will be of practical use to parasitologists, physicians, veterinarians, zoologists, and wildlife and fisheries biologists.

There are few books available in English that so completely address the development and transmission of parasitic nematodes. There are several significant improvements to this edition. Firstly, 45 references have been added, and the number of nematode species increased by 34, giving an overall total of 595. Secondly, the illustrations that have been redrawn improve the quality throughout. Thirdly, the inclusion of information on free-living

stages will be useful to the field researcher, and one example is the 3rd-stage larvae of the ascaridoids.

Three aspects make this book user-friendly. One is that of the format of the 'Contents' at the beginning of the book, which is similar to that of the previous edition, where orders are followed by superfamilies and reference lists. Secondly, a list of figures follows the contents, giving the reader an easy guide for reference. Lastly, the index, which comprises 15 pages, is accurate. One discrepancy was noted, however: *Streptocara* is listed to appear on page 415 but in fact appears on page 451.

This well-written and well-indexed reference book on a diverse biological group is highly recommended for any parasitology library. The cost is US\$185 and is a worthwhile investment because of the quality text it offers and its uniqueness of content.

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