Review of Parasites of Freshwater Fishes

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PARASITES OF FRESHWATER FISHES.
By Glenn L. Hoffman and Fred P. Meyer. Edited by John C. Landolt. 1974. T. F. H. Publications, 211 West Sylvania Ave., Neptune, New Jersey 07753. 224 pp., 108 illus., paperback, $12.95.—This is a well organized, clearly written review of fish parasite control and treatment methods. The authors, who are renowned specialists in the field, have drawn together more than 390 up-to-date references and over 440 treatments. The treatments are discussed for each major parasite group in a handy chart form that greatly facilitates the book’s usefulness. Interspersed between the charts are full-page or half-page color plates illustrating the parasites and the appearance of their infections in fish. There are 108 illustrations (all but 2 in color) on 57 pages, constituting more than 25% of the book’s length and resulting in a significantly higher than expected price for a paperback. The authors, by their own admission, made no attempt to evaluate the various works cited or to provide a systematic means for the reader to determine the identification of the specific pathogen involved. They do, however, cite major references that deal with diagnosis of the pathogen or comprehensively discuss treatment and control methods.

Knowledge in the area of fish parasites and infectious diseases has been constantly growing ever since shortly after the turn of the century. Early pioneers like H. S. Davis, who eventually founded what is now known as the U. S. Dept. of Interior’s Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory, laid the groundwork for subsequent development by investigators such as Fish, Gutsell, Rucker, Snieszko and Wolf. Yet, no matter how impressive the body of information has grown it has never kept pace or satisfied the demands from the many state and federal fish hatcheries, and especially in more recent years with those of the rapidly expanding aquarium culture and fish farming industries. For this and other reasons, Parasites of Freshwater Fishes is an important and welcomed addition.