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Book Review

PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE TO ARTHROPODS OF MEDICAL IMPORTANCE. Jerome Goddard. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. 1993. 332 p. \$95.00. ISBN 0-8493-5160-X

As the title indicates, this book is written for physicians, not medical entomologists. The early classics in the field, Matheson's "Medical Entomology," and Harwood and James' "Entomology in Human and Animal Health," now out-of-print, are not replaced by this volume because this work is of a more concise and abbreviated form.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I consists of chapters on the pathological conditions caused by arthropods, and the principles of treatment, certainly the most authoritative section of the book. Part II lists and describes many arthropods of medical importance. Part III consists of a short glossary of entomological terms, followed by an index. Tropical arthropods of medical importance are not well covered.

In part I, Dr. Goddard adequately gives directions for the treatment of arthropod bites, stings, and other lesions. Allergies to arthropods, effects of venoms, dermatitis, urticaria, blistering, myiasis, and delusory parasitosis are described.

The chapter on the identification of medically important arthropods is poorly done. Even though the book is written for physicians, it should not be so over simplified. The illustrations are poor and detract from the general appearance of the book. One of the exemplary features in part II, however, is the "Quick Fact" boxes for each of the insect groups discussed. Each chapter in this section are arranged alphabetically from "ants" to "wasps," but these are of little value as a systematic reference. For example, mutillid wasps (velvet ants) are discussed under "ants" instead of wasps. The author obviously considers ticks (47 pages), although well done, of more medical importance than fleas (7 pages). The chapter on "blister beetles" discusses only meloid beetles, and fails to mention blistering caused by all Oedemeridae, some Staphylinidae, and some Tenebrionidae.

There is little consistency in the way the author cites scientific names. The describer's name is omitted in most cases, but is included for some species of mosquitoes and ticks.

The bibliography for each chapter is inadequate and certainly of little use in finding further information either on the insects themselves or for medical references.

The primary focus of the book, according to Dr. Goddard, is to supply health care providers and public health officials with instant access to information on medically important arthropods. To this extent he succeeded. He also states, however, that "it is not the intent of this reference to make entomologists out of the readership." You don't have to be an entomologist to learn facts about medically important arthropods, nor a physician to appreciate the importance of the diseases insects cause. But you do need to have enough facts to adequately practice each of these two sciences. - **Eugene J. Gerberg**, *University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, Florida 32611.*