

## BOOK REVIEW

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## Book Review

YOUNG, E. (ed.) 1973

### THE CAPTURE AND CARE OF WILD ANIMALS

HUMAN AND ROSSEAU, PUBLISHERS LTD., 3-9 ROSE STREET, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA  
p. (16) and 224; 17 colour plates, 34 figs.

ISBN 0 7981 0331 0

Price: 7 Rand and 50 cents in hard cover with dust jacket.

The book was developed from a symposium which had the same title, but the 19 chapters are not just the papers that were delivered there. In the light of the discussion and of later information, the material was re-written to form a unified whole and is really a complete text book — probably the first in this field. It is divided into 4 sections:

- Chemical Immobilization
- Mechanical Capture
- Transport, Accommodation and Nutrition
- Post Capture Complications and Treatment

Of particular interest is a chapter on treatment of humans who have received accidental doses of chemical immobilisers or tranquilizers from darts or by absorption.

C. W. ABBOT

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

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## Book Review

### COLOR ATLAS OF THE DISEASES OF FISHES, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

by E. ELKAN and H. REICHENBACH-KLINKE

MARSHA LANDHOLT, EDITOR. T.F.H. PUBLICATIONS, INC., 211 WEST SYLVANIA AVE.,  
NEPTUNE, NEW JERSEY, 07753. U.S.A. 1974. Hard Cover. 256 pages. \$30.00.

This color atlas, a companion to the earlier volumes by the same author,<sup>1</sup> is an attempt to provide assistance in the recognition of common diseases of the lower vertebrates.

Photographs are arranged two to a page, each with a caption. The 385 figures are numbered consecutively.

The table of contents lists pages and inclusive figure numbers for the seven headings without reference to individual diseases or to animal class. Diseases are classified as follows: Viral (20 figures), Bacterial (52 figs.), Parasitic with 14 subdivisions (224 figs.), Genetic and Trauma (9 figs.), Nutritional (21 figs.), Environmental and Hematological (12 figs.), Neoplastic (47 figs.).

Figure numbers only are given in the index which is divided into sections on Disease and Host, the latter with subheadings Pisces, Amphibia and Reptilia, but it is relatively difficult to locate the illustration for a particular disease in a specific host. Fish diseases comprise the majority of those represented; for example, in the Viral section there are six fish and one reptile diseases and in the Bacterial section nine fish, two reptile and two amphibian diseases.

The photographs, with few exceptions, are excellent reproductions, the paper is of good quality, the print is clear and the format is logical.

Common and scientific names of fishes are given in the captions, but scientific names only are used for reptiles and amphibians.

There is some unnecessary duplication: five figures, one of which is indistinct, are used to illustrate the gross lesions of lymphocystis; when two would have been adequate. One, or two at most, of the six "swollen eyelids" in a turtle would have sufficed.

Photographs of hosts with "unidentified" bacterial diseases or tumours, illustrations of stained impression smears of bacteria (several are duplicates) and bacterial colonies on unidentified media are of little diagnostic value.

The captions contain insufficient information. Although this book is presumably to be used in conjunction with other volumes by the authors, the inclusion of pertinent diagnostic features of each disease would have added to the value of the text. Little use is made of arrows or other identifying marks to assist in understanding host reactions. In photomicrographs neither magnifications nor staining methods are mentioned. There are no references to pertinent publications.

Imprecise and "folksy" terminology are common: skin and dermis are used interchangeably; there is a reference to "frog's substance" (292), "naked eye inspection" (373), "This adenoma — became necrotic centrally. There was no sign of cancerous degeneration — " (343). Some observations are highly speculative: "it seems possible that the tumor feeds on the ground substance" (385), "the tick can be seen dipping into a pool of bacteria" (286), "The ulceration gradually dissolves the layers of skin — " (50).

Despite the author's statement to the contrary (preface), a sharp, well labelled, black and white photograph, accompanied by an orderly and detailed description of the lesion, is of greater value to the diagnostician than a color photograph lacking both labels and description. For this reason the "amateur" (authors' term) as well as the more experienced individual will be disappointed if he expects to find the answer to "why did this animal die" from this text alone.

In the reviewer's opinion this book is an expensive luxury, but if it stimulates the production of a more complete atlas, one of the authors' aims, it will have achieved a useful purpose.

Joan Budd

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□ Reichenbach-Klinke, H. and E. Elkan. 1965. *The Principal Diseases of Lower Vertebrates*. Academic Press, London and New York.

## Book Review

### PARASITES OF FRESHWATER FISHES

A REVIEW OF THEIR CONTROL AND TREATMENT by GLENN L. HOFFMAN and FRED P. MEYER. JOHN C. LANDOLT, EDITOR. T.F.H. PUBLICATIONS, INC., P.O. BOX 27, NEPTUNE, N.J. 07753 U.S.A. 1974. Paperback. \$12.95.

This book, as the title implies, is a review of methods used for treatment and control of parasites. The first part contains a treatment index for quick reference, an introduction which reviews the factors influencing parasite infections and a list of chemicals which have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use on food fishes. Treatment methods are discussed briefly and conversion tables are given for dilutions and common units of measure. Treatments are listed by major

parasite groups in a series of 14 tables. For each parasite and host fish treatment, dosage, method of administration, the authors' assessment of its effectiveness and the reference are given. These tables are arranged on facing pages interspersed with two pages of four photographs in color of parasitized fish and the parasites. With a few exceptions, the color reproductions are excellent. An index of illustrations would have been useful.

The caption with the illustration is the only attempt made to assist in the identification of fish parasites, however, identification of parasites was the purpose of Glenn Hoffman's previous book.<sup>1</sup>

The final two tables contain a list of the known toxicity limits of parasiticides for various species of fish, and the names, composition, synonyms and uses of the chemicals. References are listed in alphabetical order for all the treatments noted in the tables.

This book, which is a convenient size for use in the field, is recommended for anyone with practical or academic interest in the treatment of parasitic diseases of freshwater fishes.

Joan Budd

<sup>1</sup> Glenn L. Hoffman. 1967. *Parasites of North American Freshwater Fishes*. University of California Press. Berkeley and Los Angeles.

## New Book

### ECOLOGY AND CONTROL OF RODENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE

Report of a WHO Scientific Group. **World Health Organization Technical Report Series**, 1974, No. 553; 42 pages. Price: Sw. fr. 5.—. French, Russian, and Spanish edition in preparation.

### Australasian Section Meeting

The Australasian Section of the Wildlife Diseases Association held its inaugural General Meeting in association with the ANZAAS Congress on 24 January in Canberra, Australia. Twenty-three persons were in attendance and officers were elected for the coming year.

**Chairman:** Dr. J. D. Dunsmore, CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, P.O. Box 84, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.

**Secty/Treas.:** Dr. D. M. Spratt, CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, P.O. Box 84, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.

**Committee:** Mr. B. L. Munday, Mt. Pleasant Laboratories, P.O. Box 46, Launceston South, Tasmania, 7250.  
Dr. J. H. Arundel, Veterinary Clinical Centre, Princes Highway, Werribee, Victoria, 3030.

### American Association of Zoo Veterinarians Annual Meeting

November 2 - 6, 1975; Town and Country Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle, San Diego, CA 92138. Contact Dr. Philip T. Robinson, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112 USA.