

Book Reviews

Keys to the Trematoda. Volume 3. Edited by R. A. Bray, D. I. Gibson and A. Jones. 824 pp. CAB International and Natural History Museum UK, 2008. ISBN 978 0 85199 588 5. £165.00. doi:10.1017/S0031182009990989

This third and last volume of the *Keys to the Trematoda* is the culmination of a major collaborative publishing effort providing a much needed update on the *Systema Helminthum* Volume 1 by S. Yamaguti published in 1958. That this has required the contributions of 18 taxonomists, for this volume alone, is testament to the prodigious effort of Professor Yamaguti. These new volumes will be the primary source of information on the taxonomy of the Digenea for coming generations but, as the editors warn, revisions to the proposed taxonomic groupings will become necessary as new molecular data reveal relationships not currently recognized from parasite morphology alone. With the publication of this volume we now have a key to all the superfamilies described, including the five in this final volume. These are the Gorgoderioidea, Microphalloidea, Monorchioidea, Opisthorchioidea, and the remaining Plagiorchioidea. Some of the taxonomic relationships presented in this new text are based on molecular data but many are not. In common with earlier volumes, contributors provide keys to determine specimens to genus, via family and sub-family, and drawings supplement the description of each genus. The book has a well-managed feel to it as the editors have imposed a comparatively uniform style so that the chapters run seamlessly from beginning to end. One editor, Rod Bray, has also introduced each superfamily before it is presented, providing useful context to each section. There is an index to all the genera and suprageneric categories, but the proposed glossary is not included because of limitations on space. This is unfortunate as inexperienced users may struggle with some of the terminology. Equally unfortunate is the tendency to omit size ranges for genera. This is not uniform but frequent enough that users will not have access to the size ranges of most genera. Diagrams (some of which are highly schematic) do not have scale bars and a few are reminiscent of the poorer attempts by undergraduate students to reproduce images from microscope slides. It would not have been an onerous task to standardize the graphical presentation of specimens in what is otherwise a well-organized, and attractively produced, text. The editors and additional contributors must be congratulated on completing this project that will provide an enduring source of information for digenean taxonomists wherever they may be. Librarians can order this volume, and the

earlier volumes, in the certain knowledge that it will not be replaced or superseded in the foreseeable future.

DR ALAN PIKE
School of Biological Sciences
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK

Emerging Protozoan Pathogens. By N. A. Khan, pp. 510. Taylor and Francis, UK, 2009. ISBN 978 0 415 42864 4. doi:10.1017/S0031182009990990

Adjectives can have an astonishing ability to refresh those nouns they describe. Take, for example, human African trypanosomiasis, the disease upon which I have worked for over 20 years. When I started it was merely a tropical disease. Much of the pioneering work had been performed by servants of the British, French and Belgian empires. Progress against trypanosomiasis waned as the Europeans abandoned their Imperial adventure. Diseases like HAT became resurgent. No-one appeared to care. Fortunately someone introduced the idea that these diseases could conveniently be classed as 'neglected'. The reclassification worked. The World Health Organization now houses a department of Neglected Tropical Diseases, and one of the most successful of the public private partnerships that has arisen to deal with some of the world's health problems is the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative. A simple adjective allowed new impetus to be placed upon its control. And, in fact, the incidence of HAT has plummeted under its new classification.

Elsewhere we have witnessed an increased interest in 'emerging' infectious diseases too, i.e. diseases previously rare, or unknown, in man, whose incidence has started to increase in recent years, usually related to changes in demography as the world changes. Naveed Ahmed Khan has produced a text on *Emerging Protozoan Pathogens*. As with many books today, each chapter has its own author – which certainly facilitates writing a book, but inevitably leads to a lack of uniformity in style and rational cross-referencing between sections becomes difficult. The book is essentially divided into sections on amoeba (chapters each on *Acanthamoeba*, *Balamuthia*, *Naegleria* and *Blastocystis*), apicomplexans (*Cryptosporidium*, *Toxoplasma*, *Isospora* and *Babesia*), the ciliates (*Balantidium*) and flagellates (*Giardia* and *Trichomonas*). The editor must have had a little struggle in choosing which diseases could be considered as 'emerging'. Certainly toxoplasmosis, a well-known pathogen for many years, offered some cause for thought. However, its