

BOOK REVIEW

Deplazes, P., Eckert, J., Mathis, A., von Samson-Himmelstjerna, G. and Zahner, H.: **Parasitology in Veterinary Medicine**. Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen, 2016. 656 pages, 421 figures of which 56 are life cycle schemes of parasite species, 113 tables. 19.5 × 27.0 cm. ISBN 978-90-8686-274-0. Price: 99 €.

Former editions of the excellent German textbook ‘Lehrbuch der Parasitologie für die Tiermedizin’ have been offered to the distinguished attention of the readers of *Acta Veterinaria Hungarica* (Volume 54, Number 2, pp. 295–296, 2006 and Volume 61, Number 1, pp. 147–148, 2013). I am most pleased to announce the great news that the English translation of the third edition (published in 2013) of the Lehrbuch has been published by the Dutch Wageningen Academic Publisher.

The four authors of the third German edition: Professors Peter Deplazes and Johannes Eckert (Zurich), Professor Georg von Samson-Himmelstjerna (Berlin) and Professor Horst Zahner (Gießen) remained as before and Professor Alexander Matis (Zurich) was invited to join the team of authors. The translation work has been generously supported by financial contribution from Bayer HealthCare Animal Health.

The overall layout of the book certainly remained unchanged. In the initial chapter (27 pages) general concepts of parasitism and host–parasite relationship are dealt with. The main part of the book (461 pages) is organised by parasite groups (protozoa, helminths, arthropods). Individual disease entities start with a short summary of the major aspects of the given parasitosis (extremely helpful for self-learning students!). This is followed by the description of morphological characteristics needed for parasite identification, of life cycle aided by excellent drawings, of the distribution and epidemiology of infections, of their pathogenesis, clinical picture, pathology, and of diagnosis, treatment and control. Great attention is being paid to the immunological aspects of parasitic infections throughout. The authors considered it important to supplement the statements of disease entities by carefully selected and substantially updated lists of references for those interested in further details. These lists of selected references in the translated version show considerable alterations and extensions. The understanding of the text is greatly facilitated by an abundant number of highly instructive tables. The authors use disease names consistently constructed by adding the suffix –osis to the stem of the name of the parasite taxon, providing clear evidence that the worry of some British colleagues that the adoption of the principles of standard nomenclature of parasitic diseases proposed by the SNO(A)PAD would jeopardise the integrity of the English language was unfounded.

In the diagnostic chapter (34 pages) detailed description is given of the techniques used for the diagnosis of parasitic infections. It includes comparative tables on sporulated oocysts of coccidia of cattle, sheep and swine, tail end characteristics of trichostrongylid male worms of ruminants, features of 3rd stage larvae of nematodes of the gastrointestinal tract and of the 1st stage larvae of lungworms, as well as of eggs and larvae excreted in the faeces of ruminants, equines, pigs, dogs, cats and poultry. The black and white pictures of worm eggs in the diagnostic plates of the German edition were changed to colour pictures in the English version.

A separate chapter (18 pages) is devoted to the therapy and control of parasitic infections. Attributes of antiparasitic compounds, their mode of action and spectrum of efficacy are described. The reader finds an overview also of non-chemotherapeutic control alternatives

such as disinfection, vaccination and biological control. A relevant part of this chapter is devoted to the philosophy and practice of enhancing strategies for the sustainable control of parasitic infections in different host species.

The closing part (41 pages) makes a substantial contribution to the overall practical merit of the book. Here, parasitic infections occurring in major host species (cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse, dog, cat, rabbit, domestic birds, honey-bee), and parasites occurring in various tissues or organs of the hosts (skin, muscle, lungs, stomach, small and large intestines, liver, kidney, eye, genital organs, nervous system, etc.) are listed, and drugs available for their treatment (active ingredient, dose, mode of application, safety index, withdrawal period) are summarised in tables. These excellent tables provide readers with an easy access to those sites of the book which meet their specific interest. A further valuable asset is an abundant glossary (13 pages).

The bulk of the text from the German edition remained unchanged with minor updating alterations only at many places. The highly demonstrative life cycle schemes again contribute to the didactic excellence of the book.

In every aspect the book elegantly reflects the characteristic merits of the best products of German scientific literature: lucidity in construction, thoroughness in elaboration, accuracy in details, conciseness and modernity in style, abundance of instructive tables and high-quality figures, and best use of sophisticated typographical means. The Wallingford Academic Publisher must be congratulated for the high standard of editorial contributions.

The reviewer is pleased that through the English translation this up-to-date and highly comprehensive textbook has become available worldwide for a greatly expanded potential readership as an abundant and reliable source of reference to veterinary parasitology. This book should take its place on the shelves of all those concerned in learning, teaching or practising veterinary medicine and veterinary parasitology in particular.

Tibor Kassai