
In this book mosquito-borne diseases are viewed as ecological systems involving human populations and their physical and biological environment. About one-half of the book is given to the biology of mosquitoes and the rest to disease associations.

The latter considers the evolution and classification of mosquito-borne pathogens, their life-histories, and the involvement of man. In general, man's involvement with the majority of the diseases is often accidental rather than being in the continuous propagative cycle. Exceptions to this include human malaria where man is the principal host and source of infection. Even here there are some recent indications that monkey malarias can go directly to man.

Man's efforts in controlling mosquito-borne diseases are well presented. The greatest single achievement is said to be the eradication of malaria from many areas. Also important are his unconscious activities which propagate mosquito-borne diseases. These involve principally the growth of urban areas and the increasing lack of sanitary measures, which have resulted in an increase of domestic mosquitoes and the subsequent exacerbation of certain diseases such as filariasis, urban dengue, urban yellow fever, and hemorrhagic dengue. Man's exploitation of his environment also gets him into trouble with diseases because these changes may result in the increased numbers of mosquitoes. Examples are an increase in yellow fever due to the cultivation of broad-leaf food plants, Western equine encephalitis associated with irrigated farmland, and Japanese B virus increase as a result of rice cultivation and pig raising. Also, it is well recognized that the tree-cutters in Latin America tend to get yellow fever because they bring down the canopy mosquitoes which have been infected from monkeys. Malaria and other diseases may increase due to railroad building practices and the empoundment of water by hydroelectric projects.

The portion of the book given to the biology of the mosquitoes presents many interesting ideas and viewpoints on their biology as well as assessments of control. The recent evolving information about mosquito genetics is considered.

In the last chapter on retrospect and prospect, he returns again to the involvement of man. The birth of the concept that mosquitoes could transmit disease is again touched on, followed by the origin of the zoonosis idea and later the concept of worldwide eradication of diseases (malaria), the latter being only 15 years old.

Finally, in considering the present and future prospect, he indicates properly that the control of these diseases is in the hand of man. Some of the ways that they have been increased by man are shown and some of the ways that they decreased are indicated, including control of the insects by physical, biological, and chemical control. The use of drugs in man to reduce the supply of pathogens is mentioned, although it is recognized that this is not now applicable to arboviruses or except in the form of vaccines against yellow fever.

There is little to criticize in this book. The short list of references at the end of each chapter contain in large majority reports by British writers. However, upon reading the book it is evident the author is acquainted with other literature.

This book can be highly recommended, not only for those with little familiarity with the subject but especially for those who are career oriented in the field of arthropod-borne diseases, whatever their subspecialty. It reflects the writings of a man well versed in his field who has thoughtfully and carefully put down the facts, many of which he helped to develop, and his interpretations of them.

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