

## BOOK REVIEWS — — — RESUMENES DEL LIBROS

*ENTOMOGENOUS NEMATODES*, by G. O. Poinar, Jr., 1975. E. J. Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 317pp.

There are now over twenty, very productive, competent, workers in that area of biological control called insect-parasitic nematodes. Several of these scientists have written reviews on the subject recently, and an excellent 248 page bibliography and checklist came out in 1974 by Shephard from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux in England. This British effort included the checklists of van Zwaluwenburg 1928 and La Rivers 1949 and brought the host lists and bibliography up to 1974.

It is unfortunate that Poinar used 150 pages of the current work to duplicate these checklists again and another 36 pages to duplicate, in an incomplete manner, the bibliographic references. Half of Poinar's checklist deals with nematodes that are not parasites of insects.

This leaves 131 pages of which 15 pages are introduction and index. The resultant 116 pages contain 38 pages of good photographs and line drawings, which have been reproduced well on quality paper by Brill.

Only two pages are allocated to the significance of insect-parasitic nematodes as biological control agents. This is a serious fault of the book considering our recent breakthroughs in this area and the billions of pest insects debilitated, sterilized, or killed each year by insect-parasitic nematodes.

The 76 pages on techniques for studying insect-parasitic nematodes and host-parasite relations, which is the author's specialty, are pretty good but deal mainly with the author's own work and do not include much on the findings of other workers which would make it twenty times more effective.

Taxonomy is not one of the author's fine points, though he has decided to erect a new superfamily Sphaerularioidea, reinstate Allantonematidae, and shift *Fergusobia* to the Neotylenchidae, which some of us feel does not currently exist. Also, some of us do not think too kindly about the first two changes either.

A technical four page key to the families, or higher categories, of facultative and obligate nematode parasites of insects is given.

In summary, it is the feeling of this reviewer that the author did not put it all together, and readers would do best to save their \$40.00 and send post cards to the following workers for reprints to gain a 10-20x better perspective of the field: Welch, Rubtsov, Petersen, Chapman, Webster, Gordon, Defoliart, Stoffolano, Dutky, Johnson, Wülker, Massey, Bedding, Artyukhovsky, Rühm, Lamond, Kloss, Wachek, Poinar and the current reviewer.

W. R. Nickle

*ENTOMOGENOUS NEMATODES* [*NEMATODOS ENTOMOGENOS*] por G. O. Poinar, Jr., 1975. E. J. Brill, Leiden, Holanda, 317 pag.

Hay actualmente más de veinte peritos competentes y prolíficos en el campo del control biológico que comprende los nemátodos parásitos de los insectos. Varios de estos científicos han escrito ensayos críticos sobre el tema y hay una excelente bibliografía, con recuento de hospederos, de 248 páginas preparada por