

Zeitschrift: Acta Tropica
Herausgeber: Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut (Basel)
Band: 41 (1984)
Heft: 2

Buchbesprechung: Rezension = Analyse = Review

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Rezensiön – Analyse – Review

Proceedings of the first symposium on recent advances in rodent control. Kuwait Sheraton, February 8th–11th, 1982. Supervised and presented by Khalid Salem Al-Sanei, ed. by A. H. Helmy Mohammad, T. M. Zaghoul, M. Zakaria. Publ. by the State of Kuwait, Ministry of Public Health 1983.

This book is the product of a team work in the field of public health, achieved at a national and international level. It deals with a successful large-scale program for the eradication of rodents which, in Kuwait, have become a serious menace and resulted in substantial economic losses and public health problems.

Treated in this matter are the various aspects of planning and organizing of such a big project on sound scientific basis. Information on the efficiency and limitations of trapping methods in field trials, assessment of various rodenticides in the laboratory and field, problems of resistance and avoidance behaviour towards these substances, as well as recommendations to their application are discussed. Further subjects discussed are studies on rat behaviour by the use of radiotracking and techniques used in the taxonomy of rats and other rodents, biological control through predators and bacterial agents, repellents, pheromones and chemosterilants.

A section of this book is dedicated to the ectoparasites found in this campaign and their role as vectors of viral agents in Kuwait and elsewhere. The role of rodents in the epidemiology of rabies and other viruses, Rickettsia, pathogenic bacteria and protozoan parasites, such as Toxoplasma and Leishmania and helminths, some known to infect man and domestic animals, is discussed. Information about clinical and laboratory diagnosis and treatment of some diseases acquired from rodents is also given.

This book can be recommended as a valuable comprehensive source of information for workers in rodent eradication and public health, and parasitologists studying rodent parasites.

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