Book Reviews • Buchbesprechungen


This volume is the proceedings of the first international conference on the contributions of pathology of fishes to comparative pathology held in Washington, D.C., in 1972. It was sponsored by the Registry of Comparative Pathology and supported by the Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, Inc., and the University of Wisconsin–Madison Sea Grant Program.

There are 39 well-illustrated papers in 1004 pages. The papers are grouped in six parts: specific diseases, diseases of channel catfish, lesions of organ systems, chemical and physical agents of disease, nutritional disease, and neoplasia.

The quality, as well as the general approach, of the individual papers varies and reflects the diverse backgrounds and specialties of the authors. The uniformity of style of the papers indicates considerable effort by the editors and gives coherence to the series of articles. The volume is necessarily well indexed since a given disease may be mentioned in several different places. Marginal quality of some of the photographs is the greatest distraction.

This new book will be quite useful to veterinarians, microbiologists, hygienists, parasitologists, toxicologists, and biologists concerned with problems related to diseases of fishes. It will be particularly valuable to veterinary pathologists and diagnosticians who either occasionally or routinely must make accurate diagnoses of diseases of fishes. Comparative pathologists will find many articles of interest in relating similarities of diseases and disease processes in fishes to other species. This is probably the best available source on the subject and is recommended for all veterinary and comparative pathologists. The cost is reasonable.

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This small book is intended for the practical trout and salmon hatcheryman and the fish farmer; it is not aimed at a scientific audience. Despite its modest aspirations, and a scope limited to the family Salmonidae, it contains valuable information on piscine pathology. The illustrations, both black and white and colored, are high quality. The terse text conveys considerable information in a clear and succinct style. It is refreshing to encounter English instead of sloppy scientific jargon.

Any veterinary pathologist with even a passing interest in diseases of fishes will derive pleasure and (practical diagnostic) profit from reading this book. I hope that the authors will feel encouraged to enlarge both scope and page size in a second edition. In the meantime, we are in their debt for this first one.