
Mosquitos. *J. D. Gillett.* The World Naturalist series, edited by Richard Carrington. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 5 Winsley Street, London W1, 1971. xiii+274 p. £5.90 net (about \$15.50) in United Kingdom only.

Much knowledge of general biology and much art in communication are needed to produce the excellent book that this one is. The information in it is a synthesis (not a compendium) of knowledge about mosquitoes and their biology, which includes how they relate to other animals, to plants, and to various nonbiological environmental factors related to climate, geology, and geography.

The information is useful and it is understandable. By using familiar words and by using them well, the author expresses ideas in such a way that they are likely to be remembered. Thus, in a discussion of organs used by animals in flying, one reads, "But the wing of an insect is different in origin. It is something added to an already full complement of functional limbs, a distinction it shares with fairies and angels." And in a discussion of genetic plasticity of the yellow fever mosquito, Gillett writes, "The eastern strain *laid* its eggs by instalments and thus gave them a *spatial* scatter, while the western strain laid its eggs in one place, but hatching was by instalments, and thus gave them a *temporal* scatter."

This book must be added to the desk-top library of the mosquito biologist and (it is almost trite to say, but I say it with conviction) it should both be added to the library shelf of medical entomologists and parasitologists and be made available in public and college libraries for the general reader. This conviction is based on evidence clearly demonstrated in each of the 14 chapters treating mosquito biology, the 9 appendices listing most of the described species by zoogeographic realms, the fine bibliography, and the many excellent illustrations. In case you notice the difference in spelling the plural of mosquitoes in this review and Gillett's spelling indicated by the book's title, both are correct; it is incorrect in the English language to add an e to the singular form.

As a teacher and researcher in medical entomology and parasitology for about 40 years, I feel qualified to recommend this book to you and to congratulate and thank Dr. Gillett for making available to us in delightful form a considerable sampling of his comprehensive knowledge of this family of insects. By reading this book you can understand why historically and currently these insects have been and are important to human health and welfare almost everywhere that people live.

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