

**"A Colour Atlas of Medical entomology" by N.R.H. Burgess and G. O. Cowan
Chapman & Hall Medical, London. 1993, ISBN 0-412-32340-0. 144 pages**

The book is one of the Chapman & Hall Medical Atlas Series which covers a range of topics in clinical (human) medicine and surgery. It measures 27.5 x 22.0 cm and fits easily into a briefcase. In the laboratory or in the field its shape means that it can easily be opened and laid flat on a suitable surface. The Atlas has a glossy hard cover and would withstand a certain amount of rain or other environmental insults.

The Colour Atlas of Medical Entomology is written by two experienced scientists - one a Defense Advisor and Senior Lecture in Entomology, the other Professor of Military Medicine - from the Royal Army Medical College in London. Photographs for the book have been provided by a range of individuals and institutions as well as comprising many of the authors' teaching slides.

There are 17 chapters. The Introduction describes the phylum Arthropoda (the Atlas covers many types of invertebrate, not just insects) and discusses their significance, in terms of disease, to humans. Subsequent chapters detail different groups of arthropod, such as sandflies, midges, horseflies, fleas and arachnids.

The penultimate chapter deals with "Bites, stings and other forms of attack" and the final chapter with "Control of medically significant arthropods". There is a comprehensive index but, surprisingly, no references nor suggested further reading.

Like all colour atlases, this volume has its shortcomings. The photographs and illustrations are generally excellent but the text is often very basic. There are blank spaces at the end of chapters that could easily have been filled with more information - or even references! However, the Atlas undoubtedly achieved its first aim - that of enabling users "to identify arthropods of medical and public health importance" - and it goes some way towards assisting "in the accurate diagnosis of the patient's condition and the prevention of recurrence". Medical entomologists in Africa will find it a helpful, practically-orientated book and veterinary entomologists will benefit from having it on their shelves, especially when working with species of parasite that show the little discrimination between *Homo sapiens* and other animals!

JOHN E COOPER