
In the third edition of this popular student textbook, Professor Mike Service retains his philosophy of presenting a clear and concise account of how to prevent and control vector-borne diseases. It provides the reader with all the basic information on insects, mites, and ticks that are of public health importance. The first edition was published in 1996. Since that time, many advances have been made in methods and concepts in vector biology and control. The second edition remained largely unchanged with respect to area covered from the first edition, but in this third edition, text has been completely revised and updated to provide a better understanding of disease vectors on a broad front. It includes new information on molecular advances in methods of identification, vector biology and control, and the introduction of West Nile virus into the United States. Since the publication of the second edition, some mosquito species formerly in the genus Aedes have been transferred to a new genus, Ochlerotatus, so that for example, Aedes togoi is now called Ochlerotatus togoi. The new names, which are now frequently used in published literature, are adopted in this third edition. Professor Service acknowledges that using these new names will inevitably lead to some confusion but not including them would have created even more confusion.

Some tables and figures have been removed and new ones added, and some figures have been redrawn. To enhance rapid revision by students the third edition includes bold print for words relating to items, whether morphologic (e.g., capitulum) or biologic (e.g., transovarial, reservoir hosts) that are important in vector biology and transmission dynamics. The Glossary has been expanded and an Appendix of names of chemicals and microbials used in vector control (with common trade names in parentheses) has been added. An additional select bibliography of key publications has also been included after the Glossary to augment the further reading list at the end of each chapter.

This much improved third edition of Medical Entomology for Students remains an indispensable reference for physicians, nurses, and public health officers. I highly recommend it for both students and teachers of parasitology and medical entomology courses.

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