

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE

Z. Kabata: *Parasites and Diseases of Fish Cultured in the Tropics*. Taylor and Francis, London-Philadelphia, 1985, 318pp, 51 figs.

The book discussed is aimed at elevating the level of fish culturing in the tropics by utilising production of natural and artificial water bodies to the full. Fish proteins play an important role in human nutrition in tropical countries. For example, the daily protein intake in Indonesia in 1975 was 9.8 g, 3.2 g being supplied by fish protein; fish production amounted to 390,000 tonnes. According to Oka (unpubl.), 60% of the total production in 1975 were supplied by natural marine and brackish waters, the remaining 40% being contributed by cultures. While open waters produced 17 kg/ha, water bodies used in aquaculture provided 530 kg/ha. A conclusion is thus clear – it is necessary to elevate the level of culturing practice.

Unfortunately, diseases and parasites often destroy human efforts. For example, in Thailand, the *Clarias* population was killed out by bacterial diseases during 2 weeks. The parasitic copepod *Lernaea cyprinacea* reduced the carp and *Puntius gonionotus* fry production in Java in 1970 by 30%. Those are just examples.

Therefore, Z. Kabata's book is tremendously useful.

Since the problems dealt with in the book are relatively poorly understood in tropical countries, the author provides a number of practical information. Chapter 1 (pp. 3–15) introduces the reader briefly to fish anatomy. Chapter 2 (pp. 19–54) deals with diagnosis, while Chapter 3 (pp. 55–84) discusses principles of prophylaxis.

Part III of the book (pp. 87–279) describes various diseases caused by different parasites treated systematically. The book ends with a brief discussion of fish feeding and environmental perturbations.

The book shows how poorly the tropical fish parasites are known; because of this, in many cases the author was able to give the parasite's generic name only.

The book is indexed and contains an ample collection of literature references.

I am convinced that the book is a valuable contribution to the aquaculture practice in tropical countries.

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