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***Keys to the Trematoda. Volume 1***

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The authors are affiliated with the Natural History Museum, London. The list of contributors includes 15 international specialists from UK, USA, Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Poland. The trematodes are parasitic worms infecting all vertebrate groups, they include families of significance to human and animal health, with considerable economic impact. As affirmed in general introduction by the editors, the aim of this present work is to provide keys for the identification of the sexual adults of trematodes (normally found in vertebrate hosts). The present volume is composed of 53 chapters introducing classes, subclasses, superfamilies, families and genera of the Trematoda – a class of the phylum Plathelminthes (flatworms), which are commonly referred to as flukes. This class comprises two subclasses, the Aspidogastrea (chapter 2) and the Digenea (chapter 3 and the rest of chapters). Aspidogastreans are a small group composed only of a score of nominal genera parasitic in molluscs, fishes and chelonians. The Digenea are a much larger group, comprising more than 2500 nominal genera, the vast majority of which use molluscs as primary hosts and vertebrates as final hosts. Since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, various attempts have been made to find useful criteria upon which an acceptable classification of this subclass could be based. In the chapter 1 a key to both subclasses is given. Chapter 2 is devoted to the Aspidogastrea. Chapter 3 introduces

a key to the digenean superfamilies discussed in this volume. Chapters 4 through 6 are devoted to superfamilies: Azygioidea, Bivesiculoidea and Brachylaimoidea including 8 families (chapters 7 through 14). Chapters 15 through 19 embrace the superfamilies Bucephaloidea, Clinostomoidea and Cyclocoeloidea with relevant families. Chapter 23 provides a look at the superfamily Diplostomoidea with 6 relevant families. Subsequent chapters 30 through 49 delineate superfamilies Gymnophalloidea, Hemiuroidea and Schistosomatoidea. Chapter 53 is devoted to the family Transversotrematoidea. In conclusion, there is a comprehensive list of references.

Particular chapters delineating the trematodes taxa are composed of introduction, history and features, life cycles, diagnosis, and keys for the identification. All taxa of discussed trematodes are introduced with names of authors and the years of description. The volume is amply illustrated by 53 figures. Individual images comprise schematic line drawings featuring mostly several (up to 8) adult flukes or separated organs belonging to particular families and/or to related genera and species. The volume is aimed to help both specialists and non-specialists alike to identify flukes to the generic level. The second and third volumes will cover the orders Echinostomida and Plagiorchiida.

***Jindřich Jíra***