

Review — Injurious Arthropoda

SOUTHCOTT, R. V. 1973: Survey of Injuries to Man by Australian Terrestrial Arthropods. R. V. Southcott, Adelaide, Australia, 165 pp. ISBN: 0 909435 00 6. Price: A\$11.00 plus postage and packing. (Available from the author at 2 Taylors Road, Mitcham, South Australia, 5062).

Dr Southcott has been systematically filing reports of injurious encounters between man and arthropods, as well as other animals, for over 20 years. These are based on his own experiences in medical practice and on reports gleaned from other medical practitioners and published sources. Although the data are stated to be incomplete, and much more work remains to be done, this work is a substantial and worthwhile contribution to our knowledge of the subject.

The survey commences with general remarks on the history, incidence and nature of arthropod injuries to man and then reviews the individual groups responsible for these. Injuries caused by Anoplura, Coleoptera, Diptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera (larvae), Thysanoptera, Ixodoidea, Acari, Myriapoda, Chilopoda and Scorpionida are considered. Five appendices comprising an extensive commentary on an earlier work on the same subject by D. J. Lee, details of surveys in a military training area and university lectures given by the author, conclude the work. There are 13 pages of references and an index.

The relatively few New Zealand arthropods causing injury to man are mostly dealt with in this survey as they occur in Australia also or are represented by closely related species. These include among others the katipo spider, various mites and ticks, lice, wasps, bees, etc. This is a useful work for medical, veterinary and entomological libraries in New Zealand.

—G. W. Ramsay.