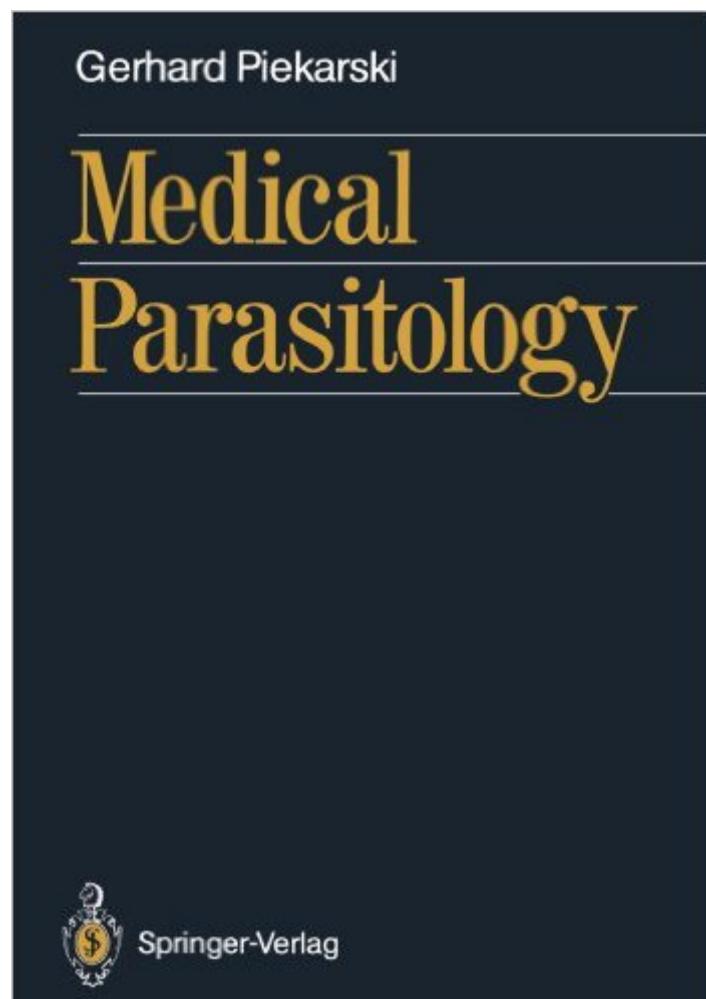


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Medical Parasitology



Synopsis

Medical Parasitology is primarily intended to be an illustrated textbook which provides a review of the most important species of parasite which occur in man; their areas of distribution, morphology and development, the typical disease symptoms resulting from infection, epidemiology and also methods of detection and indications for therapy. The main emphasis is on the protozoan and helminthic diseases; medical entomology has only been covered in connection with the epidemiology of the diseases described here. Parasites sometimes occur exclusively in man (anthropoparasites) and sometimes also in animals (anthropozoonotic parasites). The monoxenous species complete their development in man or in one animal alone (Scheme I). Heteroxenous species, which include most of the medically important parasites, develop partly in man and partly in animals in the course of their life cycle. They may even be forced to infect different species so that they can continue their development. This may sometimes be associated with a digenesis, the larval development taking place in one intermediate (Scheme II ®) or in two different intermediate hosts (Scheme III ®, ©), and the sexually mature stage developing in another host, the so-called definitive host (Scheme III ®). The importance of the intermediate hosts can vary considerably (see below).

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