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BOOK REVIEW

Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs, by Stephen L. Doggett, Dini M. Miller and Chow-Yang Lee (Editors). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2018, 472 pp.

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Bed bugs are blood-sucking ectoparasites that have long associated with human since ancient times in Egypt. Initially believed to be associated with bats in caves, this creature has since found its way into human dwellings and now has become an important pest of public health concern in urban areas. Once a common problem in most parts of the world including the temperate regions and the tropics up through the World War II era, bed bugs have been largely eradicated since due to wide scale usage of pesticides, especially DDT and Malathion. Nevertheless, during the late 1990's there have been signs of bed bugs re-emergence globally. While scientists have not been able to confidently pinpoint a single cause for the resurgence, few theories have been suggested including increase rate of global travel and development of insecticide resistance.

Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs was aptly produced with the comeback in bed bugs infestations globally. It is the first comprehensive scholarly review of bed bugs since 1966; at least half a century after Usinger's first monograph on Cimicidae. This book is a convenient read for academics, scholars, pest management professionals, researchers, and even the general public with easy to comprehend word use and minimal jargons. The editors cleverly divided the book into eight major parts each describing the key components to give a complete overview on bed bugs knowledge. The first three parts give the readers an understanding on the past and present status of bed bugs infestations, their close association with human and their impacts to society. Scientific readers and pest management professionals would especially benefit from the following three chapters that discusses in depth the biology and management of bed bugs including in specific situations such as healthcare facilities and aircraft that would be an added bonus for the pest control industries. The next part touches on the regulations of pesticide products against bed bugs and litigation landscape from the pest management professionals, property owners and consumer perspectives in the case of human/bed bug interactions. The book ideally ends with a final chapter that discusses future prospects of defeating bed bugs infestations globally with a focus on code of conduct practice in managing bed bugs and research areas that should be targeted to improve understanding on this notorious pest. The illustrations used in this book were mostly adequate to aid the readers on the contents of the book.

Overall, this book is a must have for entomologists and pest management professionals as well as general readers seeking advance knowledge in the field. It is not overzealous to regard this book as a biblical guide for bed bugs research for its depths and the integrity of scientific knowledge portrayed, owing to the scientific contributions from 60 highly experienced experts from around the world for the coming decades.

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