

BOOK REVIEW....

Atlas of Human Malaria, by Giovanni Swierczynski and Maria Gobbo.
Az Color s.r.l., Sirmione (BS), Italy. 203 p.
ISBN 978-88902892-0-0

As has been stated by World Health Organization in many of their press releases, in excesses of 1 million people die from malaria on an annual basis. Most of these deaths are from falciparum malaria in children living in sub-Saharan Africa. Between 300 and 500 million cases of the dread disease occur each year, producing vast morbidity in the process.

As noted by Lawrence R. Ash and Thomas C. Orihel in their Foreword for the book, the “gold standard” for malaria diagnosis is still the identification of the parasites on blood film placed on glass slides. The new *Atlas of Human Malaria*, written and prepared by Giovanni Swierczynski and Maria Gobbo, possesses in excess of 450 of some of the best photomicrographs I have seen representing the four primary species of *Plasmodium* infecting humans. As noted by Ash and Orihel, the book creates a “new level of diagnostic assistance” to those who may be trying to identify *Plasmodium* species. The photomicrographs

are accompanied by written text, in both English and Italian, which attempts to provide useful information on the biology and epidemiology of each *Plasmodium* species throughout. There are also sections that deal with the preparation of blood smears and staining techniques, as well photomicrographs that represent many of the artefact that may be encountered. I enjoyed looking through the book and have every intention of using it as a source when I teach my introductory parasitology course. I would highly recommended it for any university library.

Contact www.tropicalmed.eu/name/malariaatlas for information regarding purchase of the book. This is the Web site for The Centre of Tropical Diseases at the Ospedale Don Calabria. After arriving at the site, you will see symbols of Italian and English flags so that information can be read in the appropriate language. You will see the name *Atlas of Human Malaria*, or the word Novità, which will take you to the ad for the book. For overseas purchasers there is an order form that can be pulled up.

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