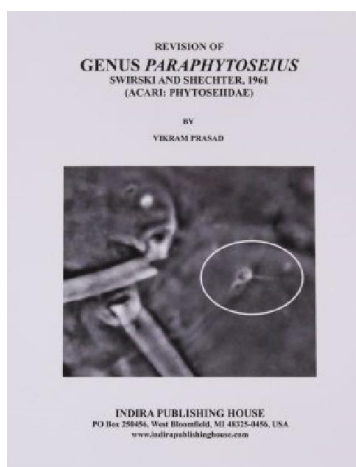


Book Review

Review of the “Revision of genus *Paraphytoseius* Swirski and Shechter, 1961 (Acari: Phytoseiidae)”

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Vikram Prasad

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Every acarology laboratory in the world working on the taxonomy or the biological control of the pests by the phytoseiid mites has a copy of at least one of the four books by Vikram Prasad. The last one is a revision of the genus *Paraphytoseius*. Some species of the genus are the most important biological control agents in the agriculture. The first step of each biological control program is to have the correct identification of the biocontrol agent. This book includes morphology, systematics, biological and ecological information on the valid species of the genus. Morphology is discussed in detail including all parts of the body especially for the solenostomes, lyrifissures and sigilla on the idiosoma for some species. In systematic part, synonyms including new ones, world distribution, type data, redescription, remarks or note for each species are given. It is a comprehensive book on the genus *Paraphytoseius*.

One forte of this book is the voucher photos. Over 300 pages of these photos consisting of over 900 voucher photos of the species are presented. In my opinion, voucher photos are very important in taxonomy of mites because: (1) Microscope slides after many years of mounting will have poor quality for studying under microscope and in most cases are not suitable; (2) They are more reliable than drawing and have a low risk of mistake than drawing; (3) It is not possible for all researchers to go to the country where type specimens are deposited or to obtain the type specimens on the loan.

The publisher's advertised price of USD\$240.00 is very reasonable for a book of this size, importance and the color photos with high quality of the glossy paper. It will be the fundamental reference book for the taxonomy of the genus *Paraphytoseius* for

many years. Its comprehensive review of the systematics and morphology of these mites would inspire not only the established researchers in acarology but also to new generation of young acarologists to take up such study of the genus.

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