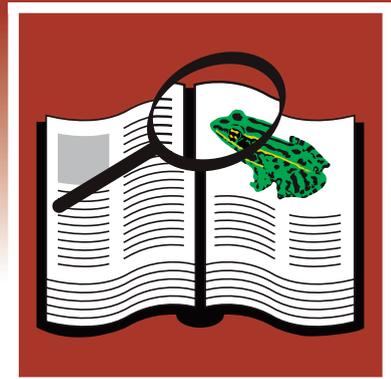


# Literature Review



## **Invertebrate Medicine**

*Edited by Gregory A.*

*Lewbart*

*Publisher—Blackwell*

*Publishing, 2006*

*Invertebrate Medicine*, edited by Dr. Gregory Lewbart, professor of aquatic animal medicine at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, is the first complete text published on the topic of veterinary care of invertebrate species. The emphasis is on medical aspects of invertebrate care, but anyone with an interest in the captive care of invertebrates will find this an interesting and useful reference. The book is 327 pages, with 20 chapters by various authors, including other prominent North Carolina State University zoological and aquatic animal professors, such as Dr. Michael Stoskopf and Dr. Edward Noga, as well as other veterinarians and researchers from zoos, aquariums, veterinary colleges, and research institutes from the United States, United Kingdom, and Thailand. The text contains a generous amount of black-and-white photographs and line-drawing illustrations. There are also 12 pages of color plates that present color copies of some of the photographs included in the text. Although the color photos are aesthetically appealing, they do not add significantly to the information presented by the black-and-white photos.

The chapters are organized taxonomically. Given the broad number of invertebrate phyla, only the most common classifications are covered in the text. In the words of the editor, only “the most economically important and ‘visible’ metazoan taxonomic groups” are included. The major group chapters include sponges, coelenterates (e.g., jellyfish, anemones, corals), gastropods (e.g., snails, sea slugs, abalone), cephalopods (e.g., octopus, squid), bivalves (e.g., oysters, clams, mussels), annelids, horseshoe crabs, spiders, scorpions, crustaceans, myriapods (e.g., centipedes, millipedes), and insects. There are 2 chapters and 3 appendices on general interest topics at the end of the book, such as diagnostic techniques and sample handling, laws and regulating agencies governing invertebrate species, invertebrate neoplasms, reportable diseases, and euthanasia. Each taxonomy chapter is organized into sections describing natural history and taxonomy, anatomy and physiology, environmental diseases and preventative medicine, infectious diseases, anesthesia and surgery, diagnostic techniques, and treatment protocols. For the average clinician reading this text, the sections will be a lesson on unfamiliar vocabulary. Most chapters, especially taxonomy, anatomy, and physiology, are well written and thoroughly referenced, thereby serving as good primers for clinicians regarding invertebrate species. Nu-

merous figures will also help guide the reader in most chapters.

Most of the authors are quick to remind the reader that invertebrate medicine is “in its infancy.” Some chapters are much stronger than others in their descriptions of diseases and treatments, most likely because of the lack of reference material available for certain invertebrate classifications. Chapters that provide thorough descriptions on infectious diseases and parasites, as well as diagnostic techniques such as hemolymph sampling, include coelenterates, gastropods, cephalopods, annelids, spiders, and crustaceans. Several of the chapters on those taxa even include formularies for anesthetics and antibiotics. Other chapters tend to focus on preventive medicine and establishing optimal environmental parameters, with less available information on clinical diagnostics and therapeutics. This is an excellent entry-level clinical text for any veterinary clinician with an interest in invertebrate species that may be maintained in zoos, aquaria, laboratories, or private collections. It is also a resource for clinicians in private practice to inform and educate their clients who own these occasional and ever-increasing “unconventional” pets.

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1557-5063/07/1602-\$30.00  
doi:10.1053/j.jepm.2007.03.004