

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Harry Kenward, Allan Hall, Annie Milles, Keith Dobney, John Carrott and Colin Nicholson for their time and advice in both my initiation into work on parasites and in the preparation of this contribution. This note is based on a project carried out in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, during a period of undergraduate work experience.

References

- Allison, E. P., Carrott, J. B., Dainton, M., Kenward, H. K. and Kemenés, I. K. (forthcoming). Evidence from insect remains and parasite eggs from the Old Grapes Lane A site, The Lanes, Carlisle. Technical Report.
- Davey, T. H. (1966). *A guide to human parasitology* (8th edn.). London: H. K. Lewis & Co.
- Faust, E. C., Beaver, P. C. and Jung, R. C. (1962). *Animal agents and vectors of human disease* (2nd edn.). London: Henry Kempton.
- Hall, A. R. and Kenward, H. K. (1990). Environmental evidence from the Colonia. *The Archaeology of York* 14(6), 289–434. London: Council for British Archaeology.
- Jones, A. K. G. (1982). 'Human parasite remains: prospects for a quantitative approach', pp. 66–70 in Hall, A. R. and Kenward, H. K. (eds.) *Environmental archaeology in the urban context. Council for British Archaeology Research Report 43*.
- Jones, A. K. G. (1983). 'A coprolite from 6-8 Pavement', pp. 225–9 in Hall, A. R., Kenward, H. K., Williams, D. and Greig, J. R. A. *Environment and living conditions at two Anglo-Scandinavian sites. The Archaeology of York* 14(4), 157–240. London: Council for British Archaeology.
- Jones, A. K. G. (1985). 'Trichuris ova in archaeological deposits: their value as indicators of ancient faeces', pp. 105–19 in Fieller, N. R. J., Gilbertson, D. D. and Ralph, N. G. A. (eds.) *Palaeobiological investigations: Research design, methods and data analysis. Symposia of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 5B. British Archaeological Reports, International Series 266*. Oxford.
- Jones, A. K. G. and Hutchinson, A. R. (1991). 'The parasitological evidence', pp. 68–72 in McCarthy, M. R., *The structural sequence and the environmental remains from Castle Street, Carlisle: Excavations 1981-2, Fascicule 1. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Research Series. 5*
- Jones, A. K. G., Hutchinson, A. R. and Nicholson, C. (1988). Finds of intestinal parasite eggs from unpromising deposits. *Antiquity* 62, 275–6.
- Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. (1986). Environmental evidence from a Roman well and Anglian pits in the Legionary fortress. *The Archaeology of York* 14(5), 241–88. London: Council for British Archaeology.
- Kenward, H. K. (1992). Rapid recording of archaeological insect remains—a reconsideration. *Circaea* 9, 81–8.
- Kenward, H. K. and Hall, A. R. (forthcoming). Biological evidence from Anglo-Scandinavian deposits at 16–22 Coppergate. *The Archaeology of York* 14(7). London: Council for British Archaeology.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1971). *Manual of veterinary parasitological laboratory techniques*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
- Michael Dainton**
c/o Department of Archaeological Sciences,
University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP,
U.K.

Disk copy received: July 1992

Book notices

These two books both have something to offer the palaeo(ethno)botanist and may well be of interest to all environmental archaeologists.

de Rougemont, G. M. (1989). *A field guide to the crops of Britain and Europe*. London: Collins. 367 pp., numerous colour pls., line drawings, maps. ISBN 0 00 219713 8. £14.95

Although published in 1989, this useful addition to Collins' generally excellent *Field*

Guide series has only recently come my way (at, it must be said, very much less than the recommended retail price, via the shelves of a National Trust shop). Comparisons will inevitably be made with *The Oxford book of foodplants* (Oxford University Press, 1969), now rather hard to obtain. However, the *Field Guide* aims to cover only Britain and Europe (presumably Britain was not part of Europe in 1989!), whilst the *Oxford book* includes foodplants from all parts of the world; the *Field Guide* deals with all kinds of crops (from fibres to drugs), whilst the *Oxford book* restricts itself to edible plants. Moreover, the *Oxford book* was evidently largely a vehicle for Barbara Nicholson's extraordinarily good colour illustrations (the accompanying text being somewhat skimpy), whereas the text of the *Field Guide* is more comprehensive and is supported by excellent colour plates (by Elizabeth Rice and Elisabeth Dowle).

Entries in the *Field Guide* are dealt with alphabetically by family (beginning, somewhat surprisingly, with Annonaceae, the custard apple family—these plants from tropical S. America are grown on a small scale in S. Spain, at least). For each species there is a description of the plant, a list of vernacular names in the main European languages (Russian names being transliterated), a discussion of the plant's uses and of its origins, distribution and cultivation. Lastly, mention is made of similar plants, principally those with which the crop plant in question might be confused in the field. One cannot help but think that this handy tome would be essential reading for the checkout staff at supermarkets whose training appears not have reached to the accurate identification of the bulk of the fresh fruit and vegetables they are handling!

Cardon, D. (1990). *Guide des teintures naturelles*. Lausanne: Delachaux et Niestlé. 399 pp., 49 colour pls. (by Gaëtan du Chatenet), numerous chemical formulae. ISBN 2-603-00732-7. Apparently not available in Britain. My copy (which cost £30) was ordered by a bookshop, probably from the publisher, Delachaux et Niestlé, Service Promotion, 79 route d'Oron, CH-1000 Lausanne 21, Switzerland.

Another 'field guide' and certainly much more like Collins' Field Guides of a decade or two ago in its overall appearance. The scope of this book is remarkable. As well as the plants one would expect (and the coverage is worldwide,

so the familiar woad, madder and greenweed of N. W. Europe are complemented by a bewildering range of tropical dyewoods, for example), there are lichens, fungi, molluscs and insects, the last group including the kermes and cochineal insects of which Mme Cardon has made a special study.

The 'taxonomic order' for this book, by contrast with the last, is (bio)chemical, at least for the plants. Thus the first section in the body of the book deals with all those plants giving red dyes—the basis for the colour lies with the presence of quinones (such as alizarin in madder), so there is more sense to this approach than a strictly family-by-family scheme. Descriptions of the plants are followed at the end of each section with a brief survey of the organic chemistry. Here can be found such delights as hamamelitannin (digalloylhamamelose) and paeonidol, not to mention curcumins I, II and III!

Besides descriptions of the organisms furnishing dyes or tannins, and some brief recipes for obtaining the colours, the entries give a history of the extraction and use of the colouring matter, sometimes with delightful asides. One such is the comment under the entry for dog whelk (*Nucella lapillus*, a source of a sort of poor-man's Tyrian purple), with the heading 'gastronomie' (the author is, after all, French!). I translate: In England in the 19th century it was sold, boiled, on the market in Hastings under the rather engaging name of *man-suckers*...

The book carries a very useful bibliography of references (including the source of the aside about dog whelks), rather more detailed than one is perhaps used to find in a 'field guide', which make this a very important work for anyone interested in the history of dyeing and in particular in the use of plants, fungi, lichens and animals. There is no doubt in my mind that the book (which is, of course, entirely in French) would find a considerable market in the U.K.; the publishers, I understand, have no intention to commission an English translation, however. *Ainsi soit-il!* I shall struggle on with my rudimentary French, so much is there to glean from this excellent *Guide*.

Allan Hall

Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, U.K.