This attractively presented 2-volume, 730 page special edition of an Italian veterinary journal, has made a timely arrival on the bluetongue scientific scene. *Veterinaria Italiana* Vol. 40 presents 123 papers compiled from the oral presentations of invited speakers and an impressive collection of poster presentations. These form the Proceedings of the Third International Bluetongue Symposium which took place at Taormina on 26–29 October 2003. The Symposium was jointly hosted by the OIE and the Italian authorities in a year in which Italy held the EU Presidency. It was ironic but appropriate that the venue was an island in the Mediterranean Sea given the fact that bluetongue had spread across large areas of North Africa and the Mediterranean countries of France, Spain, Italy, the Balkan states and Greece since 1998.

The Proceedings are divided into a number of topics which address the Global Situation; Epidemiology and Vectors; Bluetongue virus and Disease; Diagnostics, Vaccines; Control and Trade, and in summary, Conclusions of the working groups. This meeting was overdue following on the First and Second Symposia held in 1984 and 1991 in California and Paris, respectively, where bluetongue and related Orbiviruses (like horse sickness) were discussed. The Third Symposium was devoted to bluetongue and showcased the latest scientific views on the subject.

The European outbreak of bluetongue prompted much research when it was realized that the disease unlike past infections, was now becoming endemic in certain areas. Furthermore, global warming and climate change had caused the northern limit of the vector, which was always set at latitude 40 °N, to now move to 50 °N. Also, while a large body of work on certain aspects of bluetongue had been published, control was still dependent on the use of an attenuated live virus vaccine which, in the eyes of the EU, was associated with certain risks. Finally the Symposium not only highlighted what has already been achieved, it also underlined future research opportunities for our scientists to collaborate with Europe but also to independently advance the South African cause.

**86. Waruiru R M, Ngotho J W , Mukiri J G 1998**


**Book review — Boekresensie**

**Bluetongue: Proceedings of the Third International Symposium, 26–29 October 2003**

N J MacLachlan and J E Pearson (Eds)


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