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Nota di contenuto	1 - Avian Haemosporida research in the Neotropics before the year 2000 2 - Phylogenetics and systematics in a nutshell 3 - Life cycle, taxonomy, and molecular biology of avian haemosporidian parasites, with a discussion of research techniques 4 - Introduction to the taxonomy of Diptera vectors of medical and veterinary importance in the tropics 5 - The ecology of Diptera vectors of avian haemosporidians in the tropics: with emphasis in the neotropical region 6 - Geographical distribution patterns of malaria and other haemosporid in the Neotropics: a review from a biogeographical perspective and ecological niche modelling 7 - Island biogeography of avian haemosporidians in the tropics: with emphasis on the neotropical region 8 - Altitudinal and latitudinal patterns of tropical avian haemosporidians 9 - An introduction to macroecology and ecological networks for antagonistic interactions 10 - Host specialization and dispersal in avian haemosporidians 11 - Cophylogenetic patterns and speciation 12 - Community ecology and network analysis of tropical avian haemosporidians 13 - An introduction to urban and landscape ecology 14 - Anthropic impacts on avian haemosporidians and their vectors 15 - The role of parasites in invasion biology 16 - Avian migration as a mechanism of latitudinal parasite spread between tropical and temperate regions

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Sommario/riassunto
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17 - Experimental parasitology and ecoimmunology: concepts and opportunities -- 18 - Concluding remarks.

The Tropics are home to the greatest biodiversity in the world, but tropical species are at risk due to anthropogenic activities, mainly land use change, habitat loss, invasive species, and pathogens. Over the past 20 years, the avian malaria and related parasites (Order: Haemosporida) systems have received increased attention in the tropical regions from a diverse array of research perspectives. However, to date no attempts have been made to synthesize the available information and to propose new lines of research. This book provides such a synthesis by not only focusing on the antagonistic interactions, but also by providing conceptual chapters on topics going from avian haemosporidians life cycles and study techniques, to chapters addressing current concepts on ecology and evolution. For example, a chapter synthesizing basic biogeography and ecological niche model concepts is presented, followed by one on the island biogeography of avian haemosporidians. Accordingly, researchers and professionals interested in these antagonistic interaction systems will find both an overview of the field with special emphasis on the tropics, and access to the necessary conceptual framework for various topics in ecology, evolution and systematics. Given its conceptual perspective, the book will appeal not only to readers interested in avian haemosporidians, but also to those more generally interested in the ecology, evolution and systematics of host-parasite interactions.