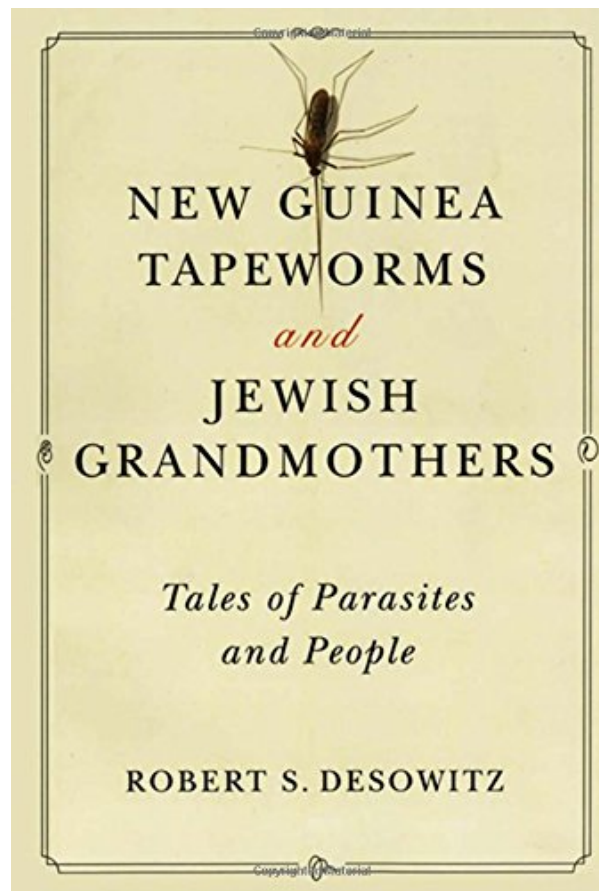
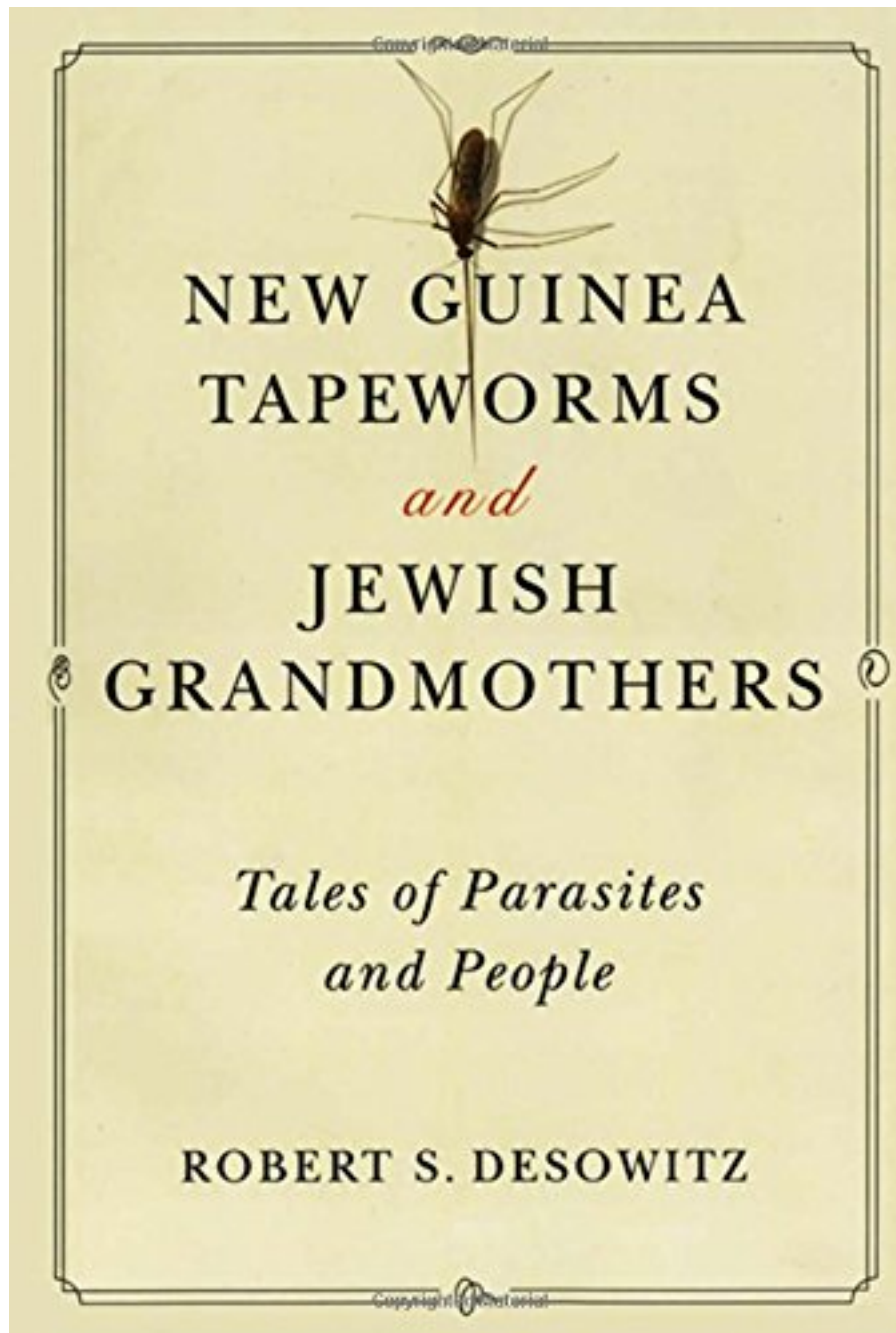


# NEW GUINEA TAPEWORMS AND JEWISH GRANDMOTHERS: TALES OF PARASITES AND PEOPLE BY ROBERT S. DESOWITZ



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## **Review**

“Dr. Desowitz tells many wise and important things about the health problems of the Third World . . . and of our own world. Fortunately, he presents his views in the form of highly entertaining stories that reveal how the life complexities of the microbial agents of disease are more than matched by the oddities of human behavior.” (Rene Dubos)

## **About the Author**

Robert S. Desowitz, a leading epidemiologist, is the author of New Guinea Tape Worms and Jewish Grandmothers and The Malaria Capers, among other books. He lives in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

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The medical tapestry of the world is full of organisms too small to see, carried by flying and creeping creatures too numerous to eradicate.

A while ago, DDT and the antimalarial drug chloroquine seemed sure to make us all safe from such invisible assault.

It was not to be. The mosquito has become resistant to DDT; malaria is on the rise; although tapeworms rarely turn up any longer in the most lovingly prepared New York City gefilte fish, a worm may inhabit your sashimi; some strains of gonorrhea actually thrive on penicillin; there is even a parasite for the higher tax brackets?the "nymph of Nantucket"; and there are new ailments?legionnaire's disease, Lassa fever, and new strains of influenza.

In the long run, one might bet on the insects and the germs. Meanwhile Dr. Robert Desowitz has written a delightful and instructive book.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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25 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Anecdotal Discussion of Parasitology

By jps00@ibm.net

This is a quick read understandable to anyone who has taken college biology. Desowitz's presentation is

primarily anecdotal this makes for quick reading, but also whets the appetite for more information. I recommend "Yellow Fever, Black Goddess : The Coevolution of People and Plagues" by Chrisopher Wills for a more in-depth and contemporary discussion of mosquito-borne parasites and the evolution of disease.

11 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

excellent. highly readable, required reading for pre-meds!

By A Customer

Highly readable! An engaging look into the secret world of parasites and our changing world. This will amaze and startle those who fell asleep in biology class

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Scary, fascinating, full of unexpected connections

By B. Rogers

This is a terrific book for anyone interested in public health or fascinated by exotic places. One totally interesting story after another... and (just in case you thought you were safe at home) not confined to places like Africa and New Guinea.... try Nantucket! The story of how horrible diseases evolved and the complexities of their transmission might not be everyone's cup of tea, but the author is humorous and wry, and makes complicated science clear and accessible. The interaction of human society and parasite survival is fascinating. My only complaint (besides that I'd love to have dinner with him and get more stories) is that the book is quite old, and I suspect there have been scientific advances in preventing and treating many of the parasitic diseases he talks about... I'd love an update.

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