

BOOK REVIEW

Bugs Rule!

An introduction to the world of insects

Cranshaw W. and Redak R., 2014. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, USA. 496 pp.
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Tailed to be an introductory book to the world of insects, *Bugs Rule!* effectively presents the fascinating *raison d'être* of every entomologist. Particular attention is given to natural history and taxonomy, especially of the orders and of the most common families of arthropods. However, the book is not just an identification guide. In the first three chapters, the authors present the biology of insects in a very didactic way; anatomy and physiology are discussed using technical names and definitions, and processes and functions are clearly explained. The authors decided to devote 61 pages to other, non-insect arthropods, presenting their differences from the main focus of the book, the insects. The core of the book (>250 pp.) introduces to the different insect orders. Many didactic boxes answer the most popular questions on insects: Do they sleep? Do they feel pain? But also to curiosities like the origin of "tarantism", the

great migration of the monarch butterfly, or the defeat of Napoleon during the Russian campaign because of an epidemic typhus spread by lice. Scientific and common names are often present, and many high quality pictures accompany the reader through the entire book. In the appendix, together with the list of the national insect of each of the US states, and a presentation of the largest insects in the world, is included a brief taxonomical summary for each order, providing a useful tool for a gross identification. I wish there would be more attention to the contribution of insects in ecosystems, but nevertheless, the authors did their job very well. In spite of the thickness of the volume, reading it is delightful, and it is likely to ignite further interest for the world of insects. *Bugs Rule!* may be certainly recommended for a first course in entomology.

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