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## Introduction to insect biology and diversity.

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Book : [Introduction to insect biology and diversity](#). 1978 pp.x + 564 pp. ref.25 pp.

Abstract : This text-book provides an introduction to the study of insects for students who have completed at least a basic course in biology and is designed to accompany modern courses that emphasise the major features of insects as living systems. A part of the book is concerned with insects as organisms and contains chapters on insect body and integument, development and reproduction, maintenance of insect movement, the reception of stimuli and the integration of activities, and social behaviour.

relationships. The second part treats the population biology of insects and deals with insects in relation to the environment. This latter includes a chapter on entomophagous insects, one on insects and vertebrates, in which crawling and flying ectoparasites and myiasis-producing Diptera are discussed, and one on vectors of organisms pathogenic to plants or vertebrates and insects in relation to bacteria, spirochaetes, Rickettsiae, Protozoa, fungi and helminths. The fourth part comprises a survey of the orders and families of insects and an attempt is made to integrate information on ecology and evolution so the taxa can be viewed in a biological context. Keys are provided to nearly all the families of insects known in North America, though extremely difficult taxa requiring special preparation techniques are merely mentioned, not keyed.

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT

This (paperback) textbook provides an introduction to entomology for those with some prior knowledge of general biology. Parts 1 to 3 cover morphology and anatomy, physiology, behaviour, ecology, and other aspects of insects in relation to their environments. Part 4 describes the orders and families of insects and includes information on competition, mimicry and evolution. Although this is described as an "International student edition", the text does have a North American bias. For example, the keys which are given are for insects known to occur in North America, and the examples chosen to illustrate various points are American. This does not, however, detract from the lucidly written, well illustrated text, which will provide a good introduction for anyone wishing to specialize in the study of insects. There is a useful glossary, a page list of references cited, a taxonomic index and a subject index. D. G. L.

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