

Wasps. An account of the biology and natural history of social and solitary wasps, with particular reference to those of the British Isles.

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Miscellaneous : [Wasps. An account of the biology and natural history of social and solitary wasps, with particular reference to those of the British Isles.](#) 1973 pp.xvi + 408 p

Abstract : This book is the most comprehensive monograph yet produced on wasps, and, as stated in the author's preface, it aims to provide a detailed account of these wasps such that specialist and naturalist alike can better appreciate their and remarkable habits. Much information on the wasps of other parts of Europe and indeed of other parts of the world is included to illustrate the topics dealt with. Both solitary and social wasps are included, and the evolution of social behaviour is emphasised. There are special sections on form and function, life-history and social organisation, seasonal behaviour, natural enemies, the impact of wasps as general pests requiring control and as predators of harmful insects) and on the biology of social wasps. The appendices include a taxonomic review of the British wasps, a check-list of British Vespoidea, a key to the nests of British wasps, information on collection, preservation and study of wasps, and a survey of the distribution of wasp species with maps. There is an index to the authors of works cited in the text, an index to Latin names and a subject index.

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT

In this comprehensive account of the biology and natural history of social wasps, nematode infection is briefly discussed. *Agamomermis pachyura* is recorded from male and queen *Paravespula vulgaris*, and from *P. germanica* and *Dolichovespula sylvestris*. *Sphaerularia* can also infect social wasps. *Vespula germanica* has been successfully infected with *Neoplectana carpocapsae*, which carries *A. nematophilus*; the bacterium is lethal for the hosts, and the use of *N. carpocapsae* offers the possibility of a highly specific method of wasp control, since honeybees can also be infected in the same way.

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT:

This book on British Vespoidea should be valuable to professional scientists and naturalists, providing a detailed, copiously illustrated account of existing knowledge, and also guidelines for work with wasps. After an introductory chapter covering early evolution, Chapter 2 describes adult morphology and anatomy. Chapter 3 deals with the biology of the Eumenidae, including behaviour, development and associated predators and parasites. Description of the Vespidae begins in Chapter 4 which covers hibernation, pre- and post-hibernation activity, early nesting and developmental stages. Subsequent chapters describe "Nests and nesting"; "Feeding and foraging" including trophallaxis, and communication; "Males and females" (caste differentiation); and "The life cycle of the season" in which the breakdown of the nest and mating behaviour are dealt with. "Parasites, predators and commensals" includes extensive tables of the Diptera, Hymenoptera and Coleoptera associated with wasp nests, whilst "Impact of wasps on man" discusses the ecology of wasps including their pest status, beneficial use in biological control, stinging and the treatment of stings, and control methods. "Various Vespidae" (non-British species) gives a background to the range of social organization found in the Vespidae and provides the basis for the discussion of their evolution.

14 of the evolution of social life in wasps. The 4 appendices cover taxonomy of nest structure, collection, preservation, and distribution. There is a complete bibliography, an author index and an excellent subject index. D. G. Lowe. <new para> ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT: <new para> This book is the most comprehensive monograph yet produced on the British wasps, and, as stated in the author's aims to provide a detailed account of these wasps such that specialist and non-specialist can better appreciate their diverse and remarkable habits. Much information of other parts of Europe and indeed of other parts of the world is included in the topics dealt with. Both solitary and social wasps are included, and the evolution of behaviour is especially emphasised. There are special sections on form and function, history and habits, social organisation, seasonal behaviour, natural enemies of wasps on man (as general pests requiring control and as predators of harmful insects) and on the evolution of social wasps. The appendices include a taxonomic key to British wasps including a check-list of British Vespoidea, a key to the nests of British wasps, information on the collection, preservation and study of wasps, and the distribution of British wasp species with maps. There is an index to the works cited in the text, an index to Latin names and a subject index.

ISBN : 0283979380

Record Number : 19730585965

Location of publication : London, Sigwick and Jackson.

Country of publication : UK

Language of text : English

Language of summary : English

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : animals, arthropods, Hymenoptera, Insects, Nematoda, Apidae, carpocapsae, VESPIDAE, Apis

Descriptor(s) : agricultural entomology, behaviour, BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, distribution, entomopathogens, entomophilic nematodes, life cycle, natural enemies, nematode pathogens, plant nematology, reviews, honey bees

Identifier(s) : behavior, biocontrol, Britain, general account, individual or social groups, nematodes, nematodes, United Kingdom, wasps, Wasps. An account of the biological history of social and solitary wasps, honeybees

Geographical Location(s) : British Isles, UK

Broader term(s) : eukaryotes, invertebrates, animals, Hexapoda, arthropods, Hymenoptera, insects, Steinernema, Steinernematidae, Rhabditida, Chromadoria, Chromadorea, Western Europe, Europe, British Isles, Commonwealth of Nations, Developed Countries, European Union Countries, OECD Countries, Apis, Apidae

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