

## BOOK REVIEWS

HOW INSECTS LIVE. By Walter M. Blaney, Elsevier Phaidon, Oxford 160 pp. \$9.95 when purchased from ESA

This book is part of a new series designed to cover an aspect of animal life that is sometimes ignored—the way that animals live in nature. Other volumes deal with mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates other than insects. The author of this volume, Dr. William Blaney, is a lecturer in zoology at Birkbeck College, University of London.

The style of writing is simple enough to appeal to non-professionals, yet includes technical information conveyed in simple language. When technical terms are used, they are explained immediately. Most of the 200 or more photographs are excellent closeups of living insects. The diagrams are not as good as the photographs and some contain errors: on page 19 dog louse and sheep louse are reversed; poorly drawn on page 23 with little resemblance to the actual flies; and on page 124 the text refers to two diagrams that do not appear in the book.

The first two chapters are probably the weakest. Some of the remarks are so general that they are not correct. The accounts of the orders of insects are far too brief in some cases. Homoptera takes up only five lines, while Grylloblattodea (incorrectly called mole crickets) takes six lines and Diplura 15 lines. The author is obviously a physiologist and not a taxonomist.

The book is relatively free of errors in the text, although on page 61, his description of a butterfly extending its proboscis only by muscular action rather than by the associated increase in blood pressure is wrong. Most of the other errors appear to be typographical. I got the impression that the author did a good job, but it seems many of the spelling errors occur in the captions under photographs where an editor might have written them. The following errors were noted: page 19 Menopæn; page 20 Phthínus; page 24 Acuèlata, ball weevil; page 28 trachæ; page 35 ligustri; page 66 cicads; page 67 Magacephala, tsete; page 87 top; page 88 cærcropia; page 114 Koloterme; page 127 cicad.

In general, the author has done an excellent job in reducing most of the diverse entomological topics covered to concise, understandable language. This is the best of the recent spate of large format picture books on insects to appear. I would recommend this book to anyone wishing to know more about insects.

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A MANUAL OF ACAROLGY 2nd ed. G. W. Krantz, Oregon State University Book Stores, Inc. Corvallis, Oregon. 1978. 509 pp. illus.

The second edition has gained a hard cover, 375 pages, 19 plates, and undergone a major revision. The format remains the same with 5 short introductory chapters on general biology and collection methods. The rest of the manual follows a systematic format. An impressive amount of specific information is presented under each superfamily. The keys run to suborder and superfamily except for ticks which are keyed to genus.

The manual is designed for a formal course or as a general reference for taxonomists. The large number of figures and references makes this manual indispensable for these

users. The monumental assemblage of specific information is however unavailable to the non-specialist. This manual should have a supplemental index for common names and host relationships as found in G. O. Evans et al. "The Terrestrial Acari of the British Isles," Vol. 1. The availability of a common name index would make the manual a standard reference for the numerous problems encountered by extension entomologists.

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PESTS AND DISEASES, Richard H. Cravens and the Editors of Time Life Books. 1977. Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia. 160 pp., Illus. \$9.00.

This is another in an excellent series of Time-Life books available to the general public. It deals with the broad subject of pest control in a manner which most laymen can easily understand. Although many areas may appear to be oversimplified, the authors seem to have captured the essential points in a satisfactory manner. The photography is excellent and should stimulate new interests among home gardeners in the field of entomology and practical pest control.

A brief history of the development of insect control practices in agriculture is contained in chapter one. It is well illustrated with early pictures of damaging insect infestations. Also included is a short discussion of pesticide regulations.

The second chapter provides basic descriptions of insect growth patterns and life cycles for use in diagnosis of insect problems. A brief discussion follows on detection of symptoms of various insect and plant disease problems.

Cultural techniques for reducing insect and disease problems are in chapter three which also discusses the basic rudiments of biological control. Outstanding photography accompanies this section.

Several safe and effective chemical controls are covered in chapter four which also covers the significance of an LD50; discusses container disposal; and mentions tips on weather factors which may affect pesticide application. Application equipment is briefly mentioned as well as ideas on treatment of houseplants. Finally, the reader receives an insight into the problems associated with controlling dutch elm disease and chestnut blight, both serious pests of American hardwoods. This part of the chapter seems to be misplaced.

The final chapter is composed of an encyclopedia of plant pests and diseases. It is an especially fine addition for gardeners to use in diagnosing insect problems, it is adequately illustrated, and contains most of the information which gardeners want to know about garden-infesting insects.

"Pests and Diseases" would be a worthy addition to libraries of naturalists and amateur entomologists and should be included in areas such as public and home libraries. In my opinion it is of limited use to professional entomologists.

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