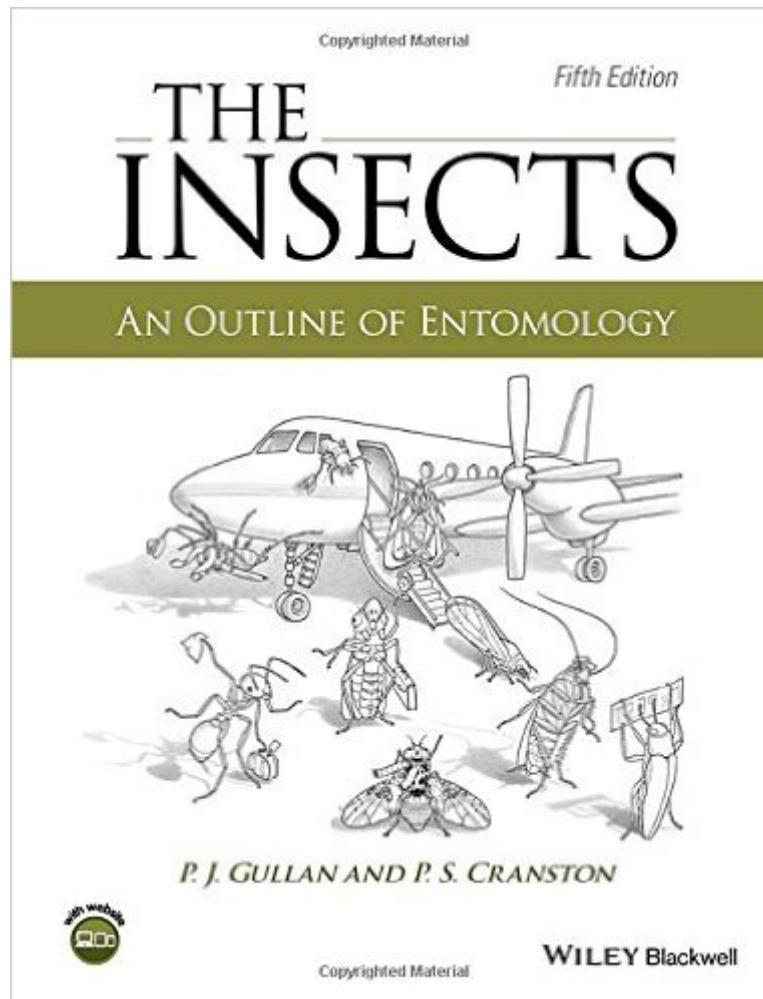


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The Insects: An Outline Of Entomology



Synopsis

Insects represent over half of the planet's biological diversity. This popular textbook provides a comprehensive introduction to this extraordinary diversity, and places entomology central to the theory and practice of evolutionary and ecological studies. Fully revised, this fifth edition opens with a chapter concerning the popular side of insect studies, including insects in citizen science, zoos and butterfly houses, and insects as food for humans and animals. Key features of insect structure, function, behaviour, ecology and classification are integrated with appropriate molecular studies. Much of the book is organized around major biological themes: living on the ground, in water, on plants, in colonies, and as predators, parasites/parasitoids and prey insects. A strong evolutionary theme is maintained throughout. There is major revision to the chapter on systematics and a new chapter, *Insects in a Changing World*, includes insect responses to, and the consequences of, both climate change and human-assisted global alterations to distributions. Updated Taxoboxes demonstrate topical issues and provide concise information on all aspects of each of the 28 major groupings (orders) of insects, plus the three orders of non-insect hexapods. New boxes describe a worrying increase in insect threats to landscape and commercial trees (including eucalypts, palms and coffee) and explain the value of genetic data, including evolutionary developmental biology and DNA barcoding, in insect biodiversity studies. The authors maintain the clarity and conciseness of earlier editions, and extend the profuse illustrations with new hand-drawn figures. Over 50 colour photographs, together with the informative text and an accompanying website with links to video clips, appendices, textboxes and further reading lists, encourage a deeper scientific study of insects. The book is intended as the principal text for students studying entomology, as well as a reference text for undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of ecology, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, palaeontology, zoology, and medical and veterinary science.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like most general entomology books, identifying major groups of insects is one focus of this text. Unlike other classic texts, such as Borror & DeLong's "Study of Insects" (now authored by Triplehorn & Johnson, 7th ed.) that are mainly taxonomy oriented for identification of insect families among the various orders, this text focuses more on biological information in the context of physiological ecology, community ecology, etc. The book has extensive narratives about various aspects of insects in different environments. For example, one chapter focuses on aquatic insects and another focuses on below ground insects. Obviously each habitat will have many taxa represented, but the text is useful in that it gives the big biological picture as related to the ecology. I think this approach will be most useful to many biology students so that they see the study of insects as really integrated across all hierarchies of biological organization. So, the book has all the basics about anatomy, physiology, development, evolution, and genomics that it should (and it seems quite up to date especially with that latter subject area), but its use of thematic chapters to explore the concepts might just be more amenable for student engagement.

Probably great for those who have had entomology classes already. The first chapter is more of a rant and reading the second chapter is difficult thus far because of the technical use of terms without defining what is being said. Hope the book gets better as I go, but this is a rough textbook for an Intro Entomology course.

This is a very dense, heavy, informative book. I wouldn't pick it up for studying on my own but it was definitely a welcome additional resource for my entomology class. I wouldn't recommend it if you have NO background because this book dives in and goes deep. I loved the detailed descriptions of mouthparts and flying the most :)

Great book. Very complete and easy to use, even by a non scientist

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