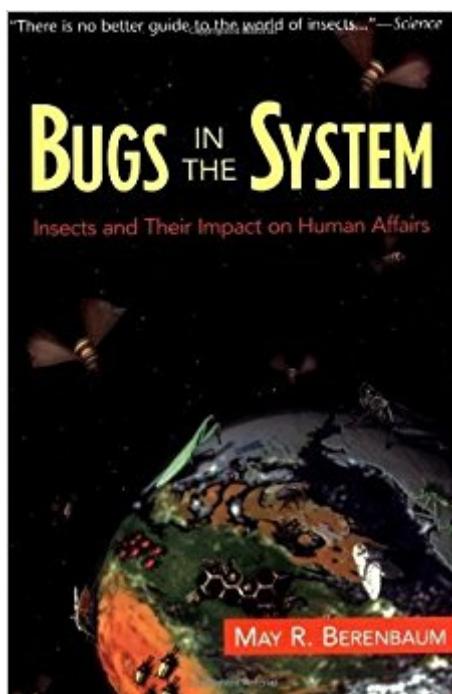


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Bugs In The System: Insects And Their Impact On Human Affairs (Helix Book)



Synopsis

An introduction to insect physiology, genetics and behaviour which looks at the interaction between humans and insects, and explores both the positive and negative aspects of the relationship.

Book Information

Series: Helix Book

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Customer Reviews

Berenbaum, a professor of entomology at the University of Illinois, here presents extraordinary information on how insects affect our lives and society. In wars, these creatures caused more deaths than bombs or bullets, according to the author; for example, the louse, carrier of typhus, defeated Napoleon's troops. Fleas (plague) and mosquitos (malaria) have taken a heavy toll on human populations. A gall nearly wiped out the French wine industry in 1860; scale insects have been the source of varnish and dye. And Berenbaum also reminds us that about a third of our food is the direct result of insect pollination. A captivating book of popular science. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-A layman's introduction to the insect world. The book is full of well-written and fascinating descriptions of these creatures and their effects on humans. The section on coprophagy, for example, illustrates the economic importance of the right type of dung beetle to Australian cattle ranchers. A book written with imagination, humor, and skill, and one that will be excellent for assignments. Clodagh Lee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1995 Reed Business

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I bet you didn't think an insect book could be very interesting. That was my opinion before I picked this up at the library (and later purchased it from). Combining humor and interesting stories, May R. Berenbaum brings entomology to the non-specialist in an understandable and enjoyable way. Some refer to this book as an insect trivia book, however, to me it's more of an insect story/history book. I like the description in the subtitle: "Insects and Their Impact on Human Affairs". That basically sums it up. Others have refer to this book as a textbook which seemed odd to me. I don't recall any school textbook being this interesting. As the preface states, "the vast majority of people consider it a high priority to minimize the extent of their interaction with the insect world". She goes on to say how improbable this is since there are (estimated) 10 quintillion individual insects alive on earth at any given moment, and they make up 80% of the world's species. She further explains that insects live (1) in Antarctica (2) in hot springs in Yellowstone (3) in horse intestines (4) pools of petroleum (5) in jars of formaldehyde in morgues (6) in baptismal fonts in churches. However, about 1/3 of a typical human diet is only possible due to insect pollination. And, without insects there would be no cotton. We're reminded that insects have determined the outcome of wars more than bullets or bombs. These facts and more are good reasons to read this book.

Excellent overview of major topics in entomology; would be equally enjoyable, I think, for both a lay person or a trained entomologist. Generally a fun/light read with lots of interesting trivia thrown in.

Who knew that you could pack in a book SO MUCH information- in nearly every paragraph there is a 'wow' fact- and still make it stimulating and readable throughout. This book is great for professional entomologist and curious, broadly-educated layperson alike. There's actually a surprising amount of history and politics involved in the telling of the role insects have had on earth. Of course, the world of insects is so varied and vast, it alone provides for fascinating exploration. Dr. Berenbaum is an able and entertaining guide. I heartily recommend!

An interesting and informative book but did not go into sufficient detail for me to get the depth that I wanted. What was lacking in depth was made up for in the breadth of the material explained.

We're using this in my insect class. It's fun and interesting. Well written. I learned a lot. It is not a typical textbook. It's a great book for a general introduction to insects for non majors. It contains many sections from basic anatomy and physiology to art and films about insects. I really liked the book.

Love the book!

Good book

A fairly good textbook, yet one thing almost vital to the subject: pictures. When describing some of the anatomical parts of insects, it becomes very easy to get jumbled up. A simple diagram could fix that. Overall, a good textbook.

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