

Book Review

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE ENTOMOLOGY

Richard M. Fox and Jean Walker Fox  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation, New York  
i - xiv, 1-450, one color plate, numerous illustrations. \$9.50.

This book has been designed primarily as a textbook for an elementary course in entomology. However, the reviewer finds it an excellent reference source, especially for the study of the comparative anatomy and morphology of insects.

Unlike many standard entomology texts in which the classification of insects is the central theme, the Foxes have brought to this book a new approach. The general insect structural plan, and its deviations comprise the first two thirds of the book while classification is the last one third. The first eight chapters cover in order the skeleton, the appendages, the wings, maintenance systems (gut, circulation, respiration and reproduction), control systems (nervous, sensory and endocrine systems), early embryogenesis and postovarian embryogenesis. These subjects are covered in a masterful way, not duplicated by any other text, and long needed. The remaining five chapters cover comparative classification of the Arthropoda in such a way that a student can grasp the origin of insects from more primitive groups. There are chapters on Arachnids and Myriapods. The final chapter presents a comparison of the orders of insects, and some of the major families.

The reader should not obtain this book if he wishes an identification manual. It has not been designed for this purpose. He will find here however a well organized, truly comparative insight into the insect structure. There will be found little on insect ecology, habits, physiology, genetics, geographical distribution or fossil record. But one book cannot be everything to everybody.

In physical appearance, the book is put up very neatly and has excellent illustrations.

The Editor