



Animals Without Backbones: An Introduction to the Invertebrates (Third Edition)

By Ralph Buchsbaum, Mildred Buchsbaum, John Pearse, Vicki Pearse

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Animals Without Backbones has been considered a classic among biology textbooks since it was first published to great acclaim in 1938. It was the first biology textbook ever reviewed by *Time* and was also featured with illustrations in *Life*. Harvard, Stanford, the University of Chicago, and more than eighty other colleges and universities adopted it for use in courses. Since then, its clear explanations and ample illustrations have continued to introduce hundreds of thousands of students and general readers around the world to jellyfishes, corals, flatworms, squids, starfishes, spiders, grasshoppers, and the other invertebrates that make up ninety-seven percent of the animal kingdom.

This new edition has been completely rewritten and redesigned, but it retains the same clarity and careful scholarship that have earned this book its continuing readership for half a century. It is even more lavishly illustrated than earlier editions, incorporating many new drawings and photographs. Informative, concise legends that form an integral part of the text accompany the illustrations. The text has been updated to include findings from recent research. Eschewing pure morphology, the authors use each group of animals to introduce one or more biological principles.

In recent decades, courses and texts on invertebrate zoology at many universities have been available only for advanced biology majors specializing in this area. The Third Edition of *Animals Without Backbones* remains an ideal introduction to invertebrates for lower-level biology majors, nonmajors, students in paleontology and other related fields, junior college and advanced high school students, and the general reader who pursues the rewarding study of the natural world.

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Editorial Review

Review

“If you had told the ten-year-old me that *Animals without Backbones* was a classic biology textbook, I would never have picked it up. I struggled to, anyway: the decades-old dog-eared copy that I found at the back of my dad's bookcase had a loose monochrome cover that always wanted to come off in my hands. This was a link to his world as a scientist, and to what he did all day. (Actually, he was a research chemist, but what did I know.) More, the book was a glimpse of a world just as alien as those in the pages of my *2000 AD* comic, peopled with warlocks and genetic infantrymen. The pictures looked hand-drawn, and showed features on the outside of the creatures as well as their inner structures. I studied those pages and copied the drawings—the stunning representation of the *Hydra* especially—into my sketch pad, next to Rogue Trooper and Judge Dredd. *2000 AD* later published one of those drawings, but it was the fantastic stories of the true, hidden world of invertebrates that really fired my imagination.”

(David Adam *Nature*)

About the Author

Ralph Buchsbaum was professor emeritus of biology at the University of Pittsburgh. **Mildred Buchsbaum** has collaborated on previous editions of *Animals Without Backbones*. **John Pearse**, a professor of biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and **Vicki Pearse**, a research associate in biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, are coeditors with A. C. Giese of the multivolume *Reproduction of Marine Invertebrates* and have published many papers in invertebrate zoology.

Users Review

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Arnold Browning:

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Catherine Riddle:

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Felix Smith:

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