

## BOOK REVIEW

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DE TONNANCOUR J.: INSECTS REVEALED. MONSTERS OR MARVELS? With foreword by Sue Hubbell. Cornell University Press (Comstock Publ. Assoc.), Ithaca & London, 2002, 160 pp. Hardcover, A4, ISBN 0-8014-4023-8, price GBP 23.50.

This book is full of beautiful photographs of attractive insects. It gives us the opportunity to admire the creatures that most of us will not be able to see in their natural habitats, mostly in the tropics. It might be hoped that at least some of the readers will realize that the merciless exploitation of tropical virgin forests leads to gradual irreversible annihilation of this beauty.

The volume has one important advantage over other books with splendid photographs that might appear similar: the photographs are complemented by erudite texts introducing the reader

in a gentle way to all the secrets of modern entomology. The names of some chapters illustrate this: The origins of insects. Insect morphology. Insects and temperature. Continental drift and the spread of insects throughout the world. Ecological niches. Insects and plants. Insects' defense strategies.

The text is up to date in including the recent advances in research. For example, the explanation of the relation between insects and plants goes beyond the already classic theme of allelochemicals, to the recent finding that volatile substances are produced by plants attacked by herbivores.

The book will thus bring both joy and illumination, and can be recommended both to specialists and laymen who have a liking for insects.

*I. Hodek*