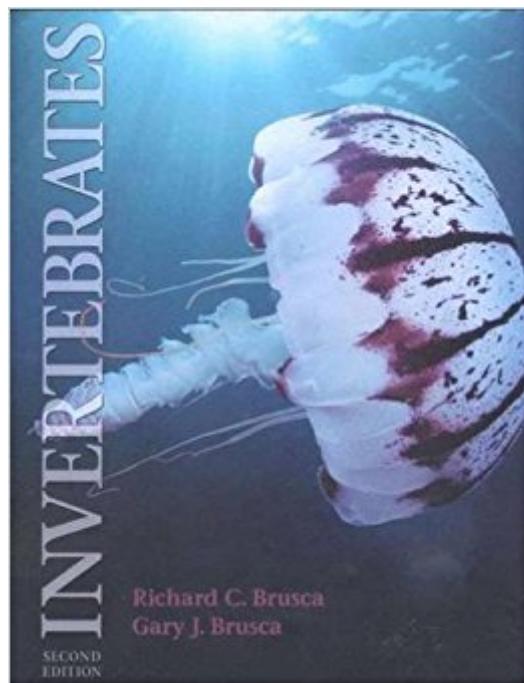


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Invertebrates - Second Edition [Hardcover]



Synopsis

Invertebrates, Second Edition presents a modern survey of the 34 animal phyla (plus the Protista) and serves as both a college course text and a reference on invertebrate biology. Thorough and up-to-date, it is organized around the themes of bauplans (body plans) and evolution (phylogenetics). Each phylum is organized in a standardized fashion, treating the systematics, bauplan (support and movement, feeding and digestion, circulation and gas exchange, excretion and osmoregulation, nervous system, reproduction and development), and phylogeny. Detailed classifications, phylogenetic trees, and references for all phyla are provided. Tables summarize each phylum's defining attributes. The text is accompanied by an abundance of detailed line drawings and new to this edition color photographs. Other key changes from the First Edition (1990) include: * the incorporation of new developments in phylogenetics, developmental biology, and molecular genetics * major changes at the highest levels among the invertebrates. Three phyla that appeared in the original book—Pentastomida, Pogonophora, and Vestimentifera—no longer exist, and a new phylum, Cycliophora, has been erected. Moreover, this edition discusses recent work in molecular systematics that has shaken classic views on animal classification. * a large new section on "Kingdom Protista" (replacing "Protozoa") containing new contemporary views of these organisms (arranged in 18 phyla).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This invertebrate text is a mixed bag. Although the date on the Author's Preface is 2002, very few

references more recent than 1997 are cited. The treatment is also very uneven. As expected given the authors' interests, the Arthropod treatment is done pretty well, but pretty much all the other major phyla are poorly treated. For example, reading the mollusk section is like entering a time warp; the gastropod systematic treatment is straight out of 1970s and the minor classes are perhaps worse. Within the molluscan overall framework, seminal works such as the Ponder and Lindberg treatment of gastropods are ignored, and the minor molluscan groups far no better; nothing more recent than references in the 1970s have obviously been consulted for the Scaphopods and although more recent references are listed for the Aplacophora and other minor classes the treatment is equally weak. Similar problems are apparent within other major taxa as well. Although the authors have tried to include some modern phylogenetic analyses, the more recent data (from say, 1998 through at least 2000) that should have been included are totally absent. Compared to the first edition, the text has many new illustrations; in fact, that seems to be the major positive addition over the earlier addition. The book seems to have relatively few typographical errors.

This large, comprehensive book is actually very suitable for the general reader. Concepts are explained well. Excellent line drawings accompany the text. The book starts off with general concepts, then covers the protozoa and then the placazoa (Trichoplax). It is suggested, as others have also speculated, that Trichoplax perhaps represents a surviving descendant of a premetazoan ancestor. The book then goes on to cover the sponges, cnidaria, ctenophora, platyhelminthes, pseudocoelomates, numerous chapters on worms, arthropoda, mollusca, etc, and finishes off with the invertebrate deuterostomes (including echinodermata, hemichordata and chordata). This book lacks recent molecular results, but nonetheless remains an excellent reference on the invertebrates.

This is a really amazing book. Goes way beyond the usual listing of features often found in comparative zoology type books, and pulls out underlying themes. Moreover, it is written in a way that makes for relaxing reading. Even the obligatory section on "why we should care about taxonomy" was an interesting read, not the chore that it tends to be in books like this. Excellent illustrations, good enough to make it a coffee-table book, but also has clear explanations and a wealth of information. This book will be a classic.

This book provides comprehensive details for all invertebrate phyla. Color photos and drawing pictures are given in all groups. Most universities as I know use this text as fundamental reference for their courses related to invertebrates. I also usually use this book as encyclopedia for invert

before I jump to other sources. This textbook is the best book on invertebrates for the present time.

Brusca and Brusca's book, INVERTEBRATES, presents a wonderful treatment of this extremely diverse group of animals. The continuous themes of body plan, development, and evolutionary relationships provide a continuous focus for the book. There is ample material in this book for any most groups of invertebrates. This book would work well for an undergraduate or a graduate level course. The line drawings and BW photos are great. The text is well written, and comprehensive taxonomic information is included. I hope Brusca and Brusca come out with a 2nd edition, since this book was published ten years ago. If they do, it will be a top candidate for my invert zool course in the future. 5 stars.

lots of great information in this book i wish it had not come damaged in the corner but over all it still looks good and I think that I'm going to learn a lot

Very helpful book. Goes into enough detail on phylum, classes and orders. Some images to help with understand of the material

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