

Book Review

An Introduction to the Invertebrates By Janet Moore, pp. 355. Cambridge University Press UK, 2001. ISBN 0 521 77914 6. £14.95 (paperback). ISBN 0 521 77076 9. £40.00 (hardback).

Studies in Biology is published jointly with the *Institute of Biology*. The series aims to provide short, affordable, readable textbooks, mainly for undergraduates.

This book covers a very wide range in its 355 pages. All the main invertebrate phyla are dealt with, including invertebrate chordates. The general approach is far from being merely descriptive, and there are many interesting and appropriate observations on other aspects of invertebrate life, for example, physiology and biochemistry. Parasitologists will turn to sections on Platyhelminthes and Nematoda and will be disappointed by their brevity and lack of detail. However, within the

context of a general treatment of invertebrates, the content of these sections is probably about right. There are also chapters on evolution, including an indication of the advances in this field from molecular studies, and one on development. The book is enhanced by useful illustrations, a comprehensive index and recommendations for further reading.

Most major invertebrate themes are touched on and, as such, this book is genuinely an introduction, and a good one at that. It will be a matter of individual judgement whether, for undergraduates, even at an introductory level, a relatively superficial treatment of a wide range of invertebrates or a more detailed study of fewer phyla is to be preferred.

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