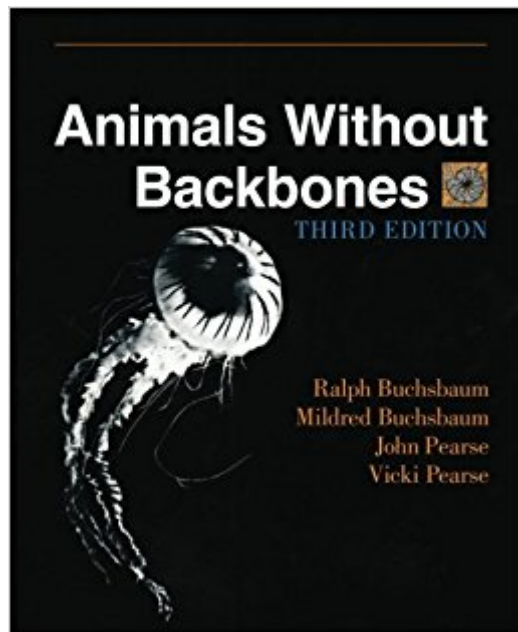




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# **Animals Without Backbones: An Introduction To The Invertebrates (Third Edition)**



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“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)

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.

I picked up an old, first edition of this book whilst recovering from an exhausting trip to Northern Africa. We were staying at a mother of a friend’s house in southern Spain, and this just happened to be on the bookshelf. It was pretty much on a whim that I started to thumb through this book, but I was pretty quickly drawn in. Starting with the anatomy and life-cycles of simple single-celled animals, through polyps, nematodes, crustaceans, and insects, it’s a fascinating look at the vast preponderance of species on our planet. I didn’t realize it at the time, but this is one of the seminal texts on invertebrates. It got me interested in biology as a whole (see “*The Machinery of Life*” for another amazing book). The edition I picked up discussed genetics, but was dated long before the discovery of DNA (which makes for some amusing reading). The current edition does include (fairly) modern genetics, but its real appeal is in the descriptions of the animals and processes themselves, which have not changed much over the years. One warning: if you are at all squeamish about insects, there are one or two plates in the book that once seen, can not be unseen (beware the

Giant Water Bug). However, the book is really worth the minor trauma. Cheers, Matt

One has to be impressed when a biology textbook has been in print since 1938. While the illustrations and photographs are dated, the writing is readable and relevant. A pithy and interesting overview of most of the animals on earth for 1/4 the price of the encyclopedic textbooks of the genre is a win-win for professor and student. Most colleges and universities will no doubt prefer the-dry-as-a-cuttlebone texts out there. If you want to know about the invertebrates, get this book. If you want an expensive reference book that you won't read but can refer to, there are \$200+ choices out there, notably the books associated with Robert D. Barnes. Or for \$0, you can refer to Wikipedia. If you don't intend to pursue invertebrate zoology as a profession but want to know about invertebrate animals, you can't go wrong with this book. It was my textbook in 1970, and I read the whole thing that semester [and nobody reads an entire textbook].

Currently using this in my high school Invertebrate Zoology class (one semester). This book is amazing and far surpasses other books I have tried to use. Language is clear and easy to read. Although it is more detailed than my level of course requires, it is easy for the instructor to pick and choose page readings to suit the audience. Highly recommend! I wish there was a vertebrate book that was comparable.

This book basically saved my life during the associated anatomy course. READ IT, if you are taking a similar course.

Awesome primer before you get into a university level invertebrate biology text. I can't say enough...this book will come with me always.

a classic text

Perfect! Its like brand new. It has no mark or highlights in it

Brilliant exposition that is both simple to understand and comprehensive.

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