

Editors' preface

The books in this series are designed to encourage readers to undertake their own studies of natural history. Each one describes some relevant techniques, but they have not enough space to cover the substantial body of more generally applicable ideas and approaches that underlies the design and analysis of such field studies. By describing a selection of these general methods, *Studying invertebrates* aims to support those venturing into ecological fieldwork for the first time. The authors have plenty of experience in helping beginners to plan, carry out and interpret ecological surveys and experiments, and we hope this handbook will serve as a welcome companion and guide, especially for those who lack confidence in their knowledge of statistical and other methods.

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R.H.L.D.
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Dedication and acknowledgements

We dedicate this book to the late J. Gordon Blower who inspired generations of students and naturalists.

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Most of the statistical tables were calculated using the algorithms in Microsoft Excel 2000. Tables A3, A4 and A6 are extracted from Neave, H. R. (1995) *Elementary statistics tables*. Routledge, London (pages 29, 30 and 40), and Neave, H. R. (1995) *Statistics tables*. Routledge, London (tables 5.1 and 5.3), by kind permission of the publishers.

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