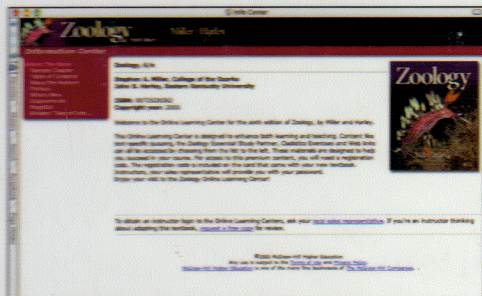


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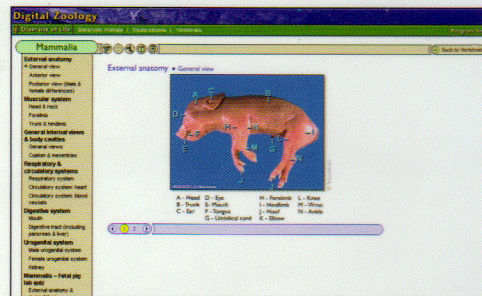
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About The Cover

Amazing evolutionary adaptations are present in every animal phylum. Presenting some of these adaptations in memorable ways is one of the major goals of the authors of this textbook. Imagine an animal that consumes its prey and then incorporates defensive structures that were originally used to protect the prey into the predators own first-line of defense! Such is the case with some members of a group of gastropod molluscs called nudibranchs. These animals have apparently won an evolutionary arms race with their prey, hydroids and sea anemones of the phylum Cnidaria. Cnidarians possess defensive stinging structures called nematocysts. The nudibranch is somehow immune to its cnidarian prey's defenses. When prey is consumed, the undischarged nematocysts are carried by ciliary tracts to, and stored in, cnidosacs. Cnidosacs are located in cerata, the fingerlike projections on the dorsal surface of the nudibranch shown in the cover photograph. The nudibranch shown here is *Flabellina exoptata*. It occurs widely in Indo-Pacific waters. This species displays another common nudibranch evolutionary adaptation, aposmatic coloration. The bright colors, like the distinctive white-on-black stripe of a skunk, warn potential predators of this animal's stolen yet potent defenses.

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