

About the Cover Photo

The azure vase sponge, *Callyspongia plicifera*. These sponges are common on coral reefs off Florida and the Bahamas and in the Caribbean, typically at depths of 5 to 25 meters. The animal's body is supported by strong protein fibers (spongin) and simple thin rods (spicules) of silica. If we could look inside the opening at the top of the sponge, we might see a variety of shrimps, brittle stars, and fishes living there.

High Praise for *Biology of the Invertebrates*...

"After years of teaching invertebrate zoology to senior marine biology majors and experimenting with every textbook on the planet, I started using Pechenik's text three years ago and have decided to continue with it. I like the book and it seems to serve my students best..."

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Director, Darling Marine Center, University of Maine

"I like Dr. Pechenik's book so much because it is eloquently written, interesting, well organized and encompassing, concise, detailed, very descriptive, and direct. His witty writing style and humor also help make the textbook enjoyable to read. Moreover, the key points are made very clearly, and unambiguously."

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William Woods
Tufts University

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ISBN 978-0-07-302826-2
MHID 0-07-302826-6



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