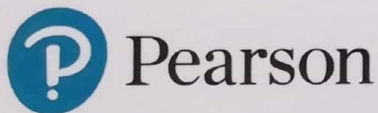
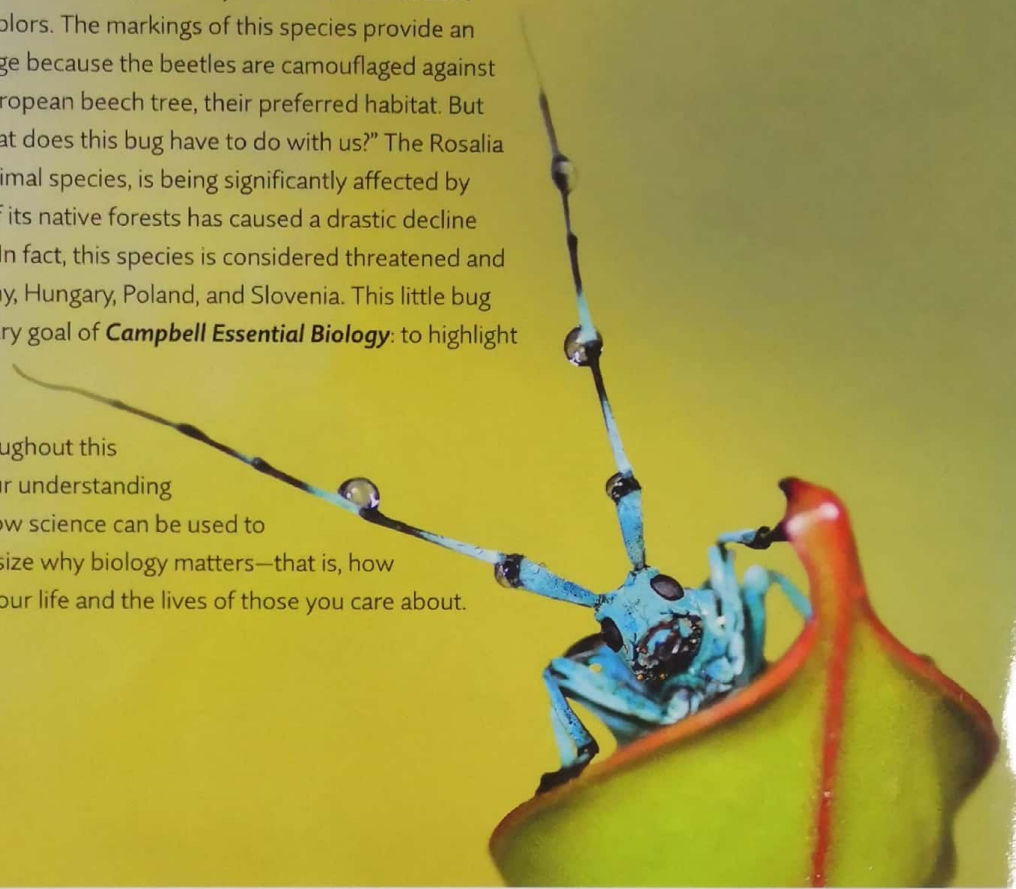


The insect on the cover of **Campbell Essential Biology** is an inch-long beetle called the *Rosalia longicorn* (*Rosalia alpina*). If you look carefully, you can see drops of dew sticking to tiny tufts of black hair along the extensive and striped antennae. This beetle is easily recognized by the distinctive blue and black markings covering its entire body. It represents one of more than 26,000 known species of longhorn beetles, most of which have prominent headgear at least as long as their body. Beetles in general account for nearly one-quarter of all known animal life forms, and they come in a tremendous variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. The markings of this species provide an evolutionary survival advantage because the beetles are camouflaged against the bluish-gray bark of the European beech tree, their preferred habitat. But you might be wondering "What does this bug have to do with us?" The *Rosalia longicorn*, like nearly every animal species, is being significantly affected by human activity. Destruction of its native forests has caused a drastic decline in population in recent years. In fact, this species is considered threatened and is protected by law in Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia. This little bug therefore illustrates the primary goal of **Campbell Essential Biology**: to highlight the interconnectedness between our society and the greater biological world. Throughout this book, we hope to deepen your understanding of life on Earth, to illustrate how science can be used to investigate life, and to emphasize why biology matters—that is, how this fascinating topic affects your life and the lives of those you care about.



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