

History of Insects

Edited by

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This is the first time that a single book has attempted to cover the whole of the fossil history of insects so comprehensively. The volume embraces the history of insect palaeontology, the methods for studying fossils, the taphonomic processes leading to their formation, the diagnostic features of all insect orders, both extant and extinct, the major fossils of each order, and the implications that can be drawn from the palaeontological record about past ecology and climates. Many new insights are presented.

It is the product principally of the largest palaeontological group in the world, in Moscow, and makes full use of the remarkable collection that these workers have developed. It includes a very large number of illustrations showing both real fossils and reconstructions of extinct taxa. The systematic part is treated in a phylogenetic framework, with information on fossil groups being used to help interpret relationships. An appendix provides information on virtually all sites where fossil insects have been found. This book is essential to all students of palaeontology and contains a wealth of information that will be of interest to students of insect evolutionary relationships and of palaeontology in general.

The Palaeontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow), is the world's largest team of palaeontologists, with 263 total staff and 117 palaeontologists (as of January 2000) in 12 research departments and in the Yu. A. Orlov Palaeontological Museum.



front cover: "La Demoiselle", symbolising Entomology and dedicated to Andrey V. Martynov (by Aleksey P. Bystrov, Russian palaeontologist and morphologist, 1935).

