

Paperback Re-issue

Throughout the 1950s, methods of experimental analysis led in to a great increase in knowledge of the machinery of insect flight. In this 1957 monograph, Dr Pringle brings together the results of the latest investigations of the mechanics of wing motion, the structure and physiology of flight muscle, aerodynamics, sense organs and nervous coordination, and shows how a common structural plan has been perfected during the course of evolution to produce the variety of form and function found in the different insect orders.

The work described and discussed includes some which was being carried out at the time in the Cambridge laboratory and other parts of the world. Of particular interest is the special type of muscle found only in the higher insects and responsible for the very high wing-beat frequencies of some flies and bees. Many different lines of approach have contributed to the new understanding of insect flight, and the subject is of great interest to entomologists, comparative physiologists and biological engineers.

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