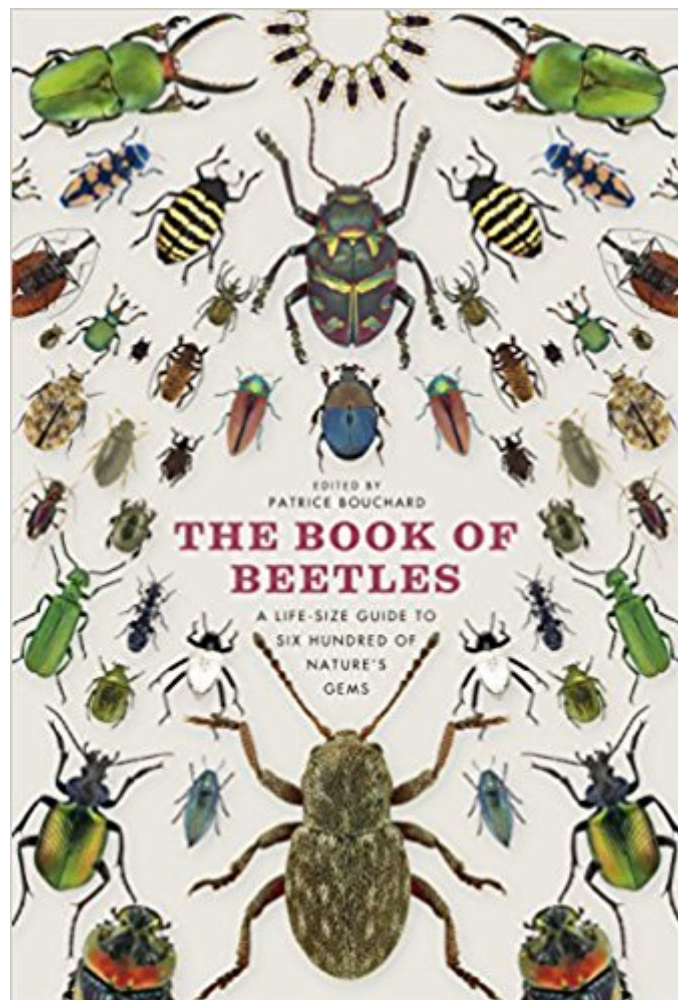


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The Book Of Beetles: A Life-Size Guide To Six Hundred Of Nature's Gems



Synopsis

When renowned British geneticist J. B. S. Haldane was asked what could be inferred about God from a study of his works, Haldane replied, "An inordinate fondness for beetles." With 350,000 known species, and scientific estimates that millions more have yet to be identified, their abundance is indisputable as is their variety. They range from the delightful summer firefly to the one-hundred-gram Goliath beetle. Beetles offer a dazzling array of shapes, sizes, and colors that entice scientists and collectors across the globe. The Book of Beetles celebrates the beauty and diversity of this marvelous insect. Six hundred significant beetle species are covered, with each entry featuring a distribution map, basic biology, conservation status, and information on cultural and economic significance. Full-color photos show the beetles both at their actual size and enlarged to show details, such as the sextet of spots that distinguish the six-spotted tiger beetle or the jagged ridges of the giant-jawed sawyer beetle. Based in the most up-to-date science and accessibly written, the descriptive text will appeal to researchers and armchair coleopterists alike. The humble beetle continues to grow in popularity, taking center stage in biodiversity studies, sustainable agriculture programs, and even the dining rooms of adventurous and eco-conscious chefs. The Book of Beetles is certain to become the authoritative reference on these remarkably adaptable and beautiful creatures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Profiles 600 of the most stunning, most wonderfully adapted beetles around. Each is photographed

at its actual size, then in a magnified version—•from the tiny beaver beetle, all the way up to the enormous and aptly named royal goliath beetle. The result is a work that is nothing short of magnificent.—• (Wired)"Photographs of more than 600 colorful, glossy species, resembling bejeweled broaches more than creepy crawlies, are presented at actual size." (Publishers Weekly)"A colourful and comprehensive guide to the bug that makes up more than a quarter of the world's animals." (Globe and Mail)"A beetle with 'dense, decumbent golden pubescence'; inhabiting an air bubble in submerged wood: what's not to love? Imaged in glorious, furry close-up, *Lutrochus germari* is just one of the 600 species (out of a total of 400,000) featured in this paean to the insects that entranced evolutionary-theory pioneer Alfred Russel Wallace." (Nature)—•"Although 656 pages and 2,400 color plates cannot begin to capture the immense biological diversity of the Coleoptera—in form, taxonomic richness, or natural history—the meticulous work of the contributing authors is more than apparent. Their compendium features beautiful, high-resolution photographs of museum specimens, complemented by carefully made distribution maps, refined line drawings, scaled "actual size"—•images, and just enough text. These elements make paging through *The Book of Beetles* a treat, and a trip around the world well worth taking.—• (American Entomologist)"An ambitious undertaking." (Choice)"A book that can be read much as one might open drawers in an entomological collection, with the benefit of also having a studied natural historian at your shoulder to tell you what you are looking at. This book is a sheer pleasure to read and to look at, and everyone will learn from it." (Entomological Society of Canada)"A spectacular sampling of the more than 350,000 species of beetles on earth. . . . The book is not only an excellent reference, but a joy to peruse." (BeautifulNow)

Patrice Bouchard is research scientist and curator of Coleoptera at the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids, and Nematodes.

I purchased this as a gift for my 11 year-old nephew, hoping to spark his interest in things other than video games. Not sure if I accomplished that, but the contents of this book were what I was looking for. Good info on beetles, excellent life-size pictures! Actually seeing how big some of the bigger beetles can get is eye-opening.

Great pictures. All life size and also sized to view easily (usually made larger but an occasional large beetle had to be made smaller to fit). Interesting descriptions with each beetle. It is organized

down to family and subfamily. This is not a guide to beetle identification but great to see the variety of beetles in the world. If you want a book to help you determine what species you have--buy something else.

Very well done book...information on each genus/family represented is a little limited because of the magnitude and numbers covered...still it is a great addition to my "nature" books collection...even more so since it is a large hard bound book rather than a smaller field guide which I would normally purchase.

This is one really friggin cool book. Highly recommended.

The most informative and well put together book ever on Beetles. WONDERFUL book. Has actual size, locations /origins around the world, a full page dedicated to information on , Well worth the money if you have a Love of Beetles.

Huge and beautiful book with just about every kind of beetle imaginable. I love how the actual size is included. As for the context, it is very scientific with many big words (and I'm an adult writing this!) and would not be a good read for fun or for younger children

I've not really read much of it yet but it seems quite detailed. My one complaint is that I was disappointed by how the photos were placed. Here are these fabulous photos and part of them are off the page.

Wonderful Book, both beautiful and informative. My grandson, age five, loves it as do I, aged though I am. Recommend it to read, hold and behold without reservation.

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