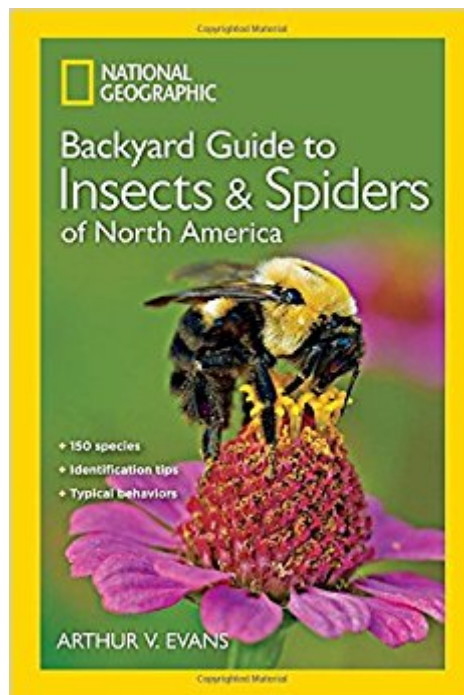




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National Geographic Backyard Guide To Insects And Spiders Of North America



Synopsis

An accessible visual guide to the top 150 insects and spiders, this guide combines readable text, representative photographs, and explanatory illustrations to highlight key features of body shape, life cycle, and behavior. Organized by scientific taxonomy, the book offers navigational devices for quick identification and practical information about attractingâor repelling!âthese creatures. Noted entomologist Arthur Evans has selected the top 150 creatures of interest, from luna moth and ladybug to black widow spider, Rocky Mountain tick, and millipede. *Backyard Guide to the Insects and Spiders of North America* introduces them all with enthusiasm and authority.Â With the handy size, logical organization, and visual richness, this volume will prove a valued title in the backpack or home library of every nature lover and outdoor enthusiast.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ARTHUR V. EVANS is an entomologist, author, lecturer, photographer, and broadcaster. He has written and cowritten many books, including *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles*, *The Field Guide to Beetles of California*, *Beetles of Eastern North America*, and *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America*. He holds a doctoral degree in entomology and works as a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution. He explores the human-insect relationship on *What's Bugging You?*, a weekly radio feature on Richmond, Virginia's NPR station and on his Facebook page, Dr. Art Evans, Entomologist.

I am biologist of terrestrial invertebrates so I have a collection of these books.

This National Geographic Backyard Guide to Insects & Spiders by Arthur V. Evans is a fascinating look at the bugs and spiders living right outside our doors. It's filled with beautiful, full color pictures (multiple pics on each page) that make it easy to identify creatures you find in your yard. There is much more than pictures, though. Besides the scientific names and the common names, Mr. Evans includes fascinating facts about life cycles, diet, predation, defenses, and much more. I chose this because my teen son lives and breathes insects and spiders but I found myself immersed in the book, too. When you think about how much these creatures affect our lives, it's interesting knowing more about them. There is an excellent glossary in the back of the book, along with a section on Citizen Science projects that my son got very excited about. In the front is a great section about how to observe insects and spiders and how to attract them for observation. The book itself is softbound but has a thick cover and the paper is glossy and of high quality. It's a small size book, about 5" x 8", so it's handy for taking with you in your back yard explorations. I think this would be a great gift for any kid but you'll have a hard time not reading it before gifting.

This is a nature guide for common insects and spiders in North America. Evans is a well-published entomologist and author of the "Beetles of North America"; he also has a weekly public radio spotlight called "What's Bugging You?". This book, written for beginners, is a very approachable introduction to our most common arthropods. The book starts with a brief overview of bug science, including where, when and how to find insects, arthropod life cycles, and what arthropods eat. The main section of the book consists of one-page profiles of each common insect, with representatives from major insect families such as dragonflies, grasshoppers, beetles, and spiders. Each profile page includes a high-quality color photo of an adult form of the species, the common and scientific names, a description of identifying characteristics, an overview of habits and reproduction, and a short discussion of similar species. A list of fast facts, such as size, life cycle, range, and food also appears at the top of the page beside the photo. At the bottom of each page is a second image depicting a different life stage of the species, such as a larva or egg. Scattered throughout the book are short notes "of interest" that provide some interesting facts, or longer sections such as "How dragonflies do it", providing more detailed information about a topic related to an arthropod family. At the back of the book is a glossary, a list of citizen science projects, some suggestions for further reading and an index. A visual key to arthropod families appears inside the front cover, while labeled diagrams of insect and spider parts appear inside the back cover. I have found the

presentation of the material in this book to be extremely interesting and accessible, especially for beginners. Technical terms are kept to a minimum, and when they are used, they appear in bold type and are defined in the glossary. The descriptions for each species provide interesting and useful information. If you have a young bug-enthusiast in your family, this book could easily become a great bedtime story book, with its short one-page descriptions. Of course, since this book is limited to just 150 species, it doesn't attempt to identify every insect that you will see. But it does cover the most common species, so if you learn these insects, you will have a good start for moving up to a more technical manual with more species. I wish the book also included range maps, but at least the ranges are described in words in the fast facts section for each species. Overall, this is a treasure of a book for beginning entomologists, or anyone who wants to learn to tell friendly bugs from pests.

It's been a couple of weeks since I got this guide and I'm almost done reading it from cover to cover a little each night. This is more of a reference than book than reading material but I'm enjoying learning about (although not remembering) some of the most popular insects in North America. For most insects there's a picture of the adult and one picture of another form of that insect (such as the nymph, larva, eggs, adult male). Species, range, some typical behaviors, and other facts are also listed. The body parts of each insect and spider are vividly described. Nevertheless, the main issue I have with those descriptions is that there is no diagram of the body parts being discussed. On the inside back cover of this book, there's a body part diagram of both an insect and spider. However, on the diagram for the insect, it shows leg, thorax, etc. Yet when describing the insects, the text uses words like pronotum, scutellum, elytra, petiole, chelicerae, scutum, etc. I would have loved to see the locations and diagrams of those because even if I read the glossary it was hard for me to visualize. Nevertheless, there's a lot to learn from this book. For instance, I had no clue that:- Companion planting nasturtium or tansy flowers can work to repel squash bugs- Using pesticides indoors on stink bugs is not recommended because their dead remains in walls and other inaccessible places can cause other insect pest infestation.- Winged termites in a home indicates an infestation.- Two-striped stick insects spray defensively and if it gets in humans or dogs eyes, it results in severe pain and temporary blindness. "Even inhalation of the spray can cause considerable discomfort."- In 2021, brood X of seventeen-year cicadas will emerge in their range which includes (but is not limited to) New Jersey to northern Georgia. Had National Geographic included a representative sample of in-depth diagrams of insect parts for the various bugs that showed the location of all the "body parts" that were bolded in the text descriptions, I would have

rated this five stars. Despite this oversight, I still love the book.

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