

estuary in Quebec. This is the most biologically productive part because of year-round vertical water mixing. Aerial photographic surveys of numbers are therefore simple to carry out, but it is necessary to measure the percent of animals diving too deeply to be registered visually or by camera from the air. M. C. S. Kingsley and team did this using a helicopter hovering at an altitude that did not disturb the animals. The correction factor turned out to be more than two, so that estimates of numbers needed to be more than doubled, giving a total of more than 1200. Moreover, a series of estimates made since even casual hunting ended, ca. 1979, up to the last recorded survey in 1998, showed that the population has been growing slowly.

I add to this review some more recent information that several belugas, including one radio-tracked animal, moved in autumn 2002 from SE Hudson Bay to off

Nain, Labrador (D. W. Doidge, personal communication), showing that therefore some animals "bleed" from the Arctic into the Labrador Current. These must be the source of infrequent but not rare animals which reach the east coast of Newfoundland (Curren and Lien. 1998. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 112(1): 28-31). These were noted by Kingsley in this book, but have not been tracked further. Animals coming from the St. Lawrence estuary are also known to "bleed" into waters around the Maritime Provinces as far as the Bay of Fundy and even to New Jersey (various references). It therefore seems very unlikely that the St. Lawrence population is isolated genetically from the main Arctic population of belugas.

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The Firefly Encyclopedia of Insects and Spiders

Edited by Christopher O'Toole. 2002. Firefly Books Ltd., Willowdale, Ontario

I will first state my biases and say that I'm not a big fan of encyclopaedias. Having got that out of the way, I must say this book was engaging, excellently laid out, and an absolute joy to read. The photographs ranged from very good to excellent to amazing. The full-frame images of even small insects startled me with their clarity. Diagrams were liberally used, effective, and also of exceedingly high quality. Each chapter was written by one or more experts, and I enjoyed reading them all. The majority of insect orders are covered, as are most of the arachnids (not just the spiders as the title alludes).

Although this book could not serve as a university text in entomology, if I were to offer a bug course at the high school level, I would use this book. I have seen many entomology texts, and none are as visually appealing as this book. This book would not substitute for a field guide because of its size, but the quality of the text, illustrations and photos far exceeds any of the field guides I've used.

Interspersed with the taxonomic accounts which dominate the book were photo stories, fact files and special features. These articles ranged from less than a page to two pages and provided a different tangent on insect and arachnid life. As with the rest of this book, these articles were well done.

The weaknesses were very few. My underlying feeling was that I couldn't be certain as to the intended audience. The wording is usually so straightforward that children from eight or nine years old should be able to read it; however, technical terminology creeps in now and again, and would likely give those same early readers quite a pause. For the most part, the technical lingo is kept to a minimum, and is often isolated from the main text in sidebars. This book is billed as an encyclopaedia, and the publishers I think were striving to market the book to a wide audience.

My only quibble about the actual content was that the minor taxa were mentioned only in a list alongside the more dominant taxa, and not given their own words or photographs to describe them. I realize that no book that features the ricinuleids more than the beetles will ever sell, especially to the general public, but a photograph and a quarter page or so of text for each of these minor taxa would have been appropriate. Overall though, a great reference book, with wonderful visual appeal.

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