



How Not to Be Eaten: The Insects Fight Back

By Gilbert Waldbauer

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All animals must eat. But who eats who, and why, or why not? Because insects outnumber and collectively outweigh all other animals combined, they comprise the largest amount of animal food available for potential consumption. How do they avoid being eaten? From masterful disguises to physical and chemical lures and traps, predatory insects have devised ingenious and bizarre methods of finding food. Equally ingenious are the means of hiding, mimicry, escape, and defense waged by prospective prey in order to stay alive. This absorbing book demonstrates that the relationship between the eaten and the eater is a central—perhaps the central—aspect of what goes on in the community of organisms. By explaining the many ways in which insects avoid becoming a meal for a predator, and the ways in which predators evade their defensive strategies, Gilbert Waldbauer conveys an essential understanding of the unrelenting coevolutionary forces at work in the world around us.

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Editorial Review

Review

“At times this informative book turns wonderfully gross and lovely, reminding us that there’s an entire universe of largely unnoticed creatures all around us.”

(*Audubon Magazine* 2012-04-24)

“For the aspiring entomologist or amateur naturalist, there is much to appreciate in Waldbauer’s wonderland of astonishing behaviors and colorful creatures. And for the entomologist’s friends or family who don’t see what’s so great about the hexapod world, this book might be just the ticket. Its vivid stories are sure to inspire a closer attention to the small, everyday dramas playing out on spider webs, on flowers and all around us.”

(*American Scientist* 2012-04-01)

“From burrowing owls that bait dung beetles with lures made from cow manure to the unicorn caterpillar, which sprays would-be attackers with a spritz of acid, the profusion of life in all its forms and finery flies in through the window on biology that Waldbauer opens wide.”

(*The Scientist* 2012-04-01)

“Readers will certainly come away with . . . appreciation for the ways in which insects use mimicry, deceit and poison to survive.”

(Amy Stewart *Washington Post* 2012-03-25)

“The strengths of the book derive from the author’s . . . decades of experience as a keen observer of nature.”

(Elsa Youngsteadt *American Scientist* 2012-05-14)

“This book is a good source of information for laypeople, young students, and those who have no knowledge of the insect world.”

(J.M. Gonzalez *Choice* 2012-07-01)

“Fascinating. . . . *How Not To Be Eaten* is engaging in its descriptive and wide-ranging examples.”

(Anthony Joern, Kansas State University in *Manhattan Bioscience* 2012-12-01)

“This absorbing book demonstrates that the relationship between the eaten and the eater is a central -- perhaps the central -- aspect of what goes on in the community of organisms. By explaining the many ways in which insects avoid becoming a meal for a predator, and the ways in which predators evade their defensive strategies, Gilbert Waldbauer conveys an essential understanding of the unrelenting coevolutionary forces at work in the world around us.”

(*The Guardian/Grrlscientist Birdbooker Report Blog* 2012-02-26)

“An entertaining, informative introduction to insect defenses.”

(Clyde E. Sorenson *Ecology* 2013-02-01)

About the Author

Gilbert Waldbauer is Professor Emeritus of Entomology at University of Illinois. He is the author of eight

books, including *Fireflies, Honey, and Silk* (UC Press), *A Walk around the Pond*, and *What Good Are Bugs?*

Users Review

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