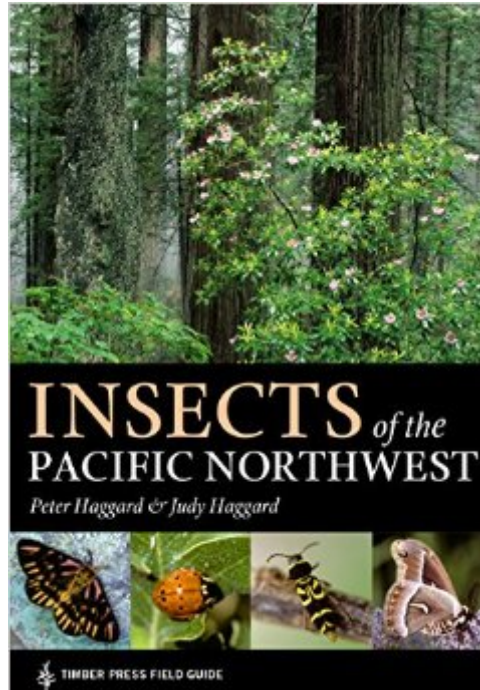


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Insects Of The Pacific Northwest (A Timber Press Field Guide)



Synopsis

The only comprehensive guide to insects of the Pacific Northwest, this handy reference is perfect for hikers, fishers, and naturalists. With coverage from southwestern British Columbia to northern California, from the coast to the high desert, it describes more than 450 species of common, easily visible insects and some noninsect invertebrates, including beetles, butterflies and moths, dragonflies, grasshoppers, crickets, cicadas, flies, bees, wasps, ants, spiders, millipedes, snails, and slugs. The more than 600 superb color photographs, helpful visual keys, and clear color-coded layout will make this field guide an invaluable resource for nature lovers throughout the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Timber Press is usually pretty dependable when it comes to producing regional field guides and Peter and Judy Haggard's new insect guide certainly qualifies as a nice little regional field guide. When placed in a head-to-head against the Lone Pine analog *Bugs of Oregon and Washington*, it wins hands down (Lone Pine can be pretty hit-or-miss ranging from the indispensable *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* and *Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia* to the down right useless *Birds of the Pacific Northwest Coast*). Where *Bugs* comes in at 160 pages with only one critter per page illustrated competently by Ian Sheldon, *Insects* comes in at 295 pages with photographs of several species per page. The front 20% is beetles, easily the most comprehensive and useful section. It includes many of my favorites (*Calligrapha multipunctata*,

Ellychnia hatchi) though Rain beetles (_Pleocoma_) and the snail-eating _Scaphinotus_ are curiously absent....The Lepidoptera section is the largest section and includes plenty of caterpillars. The overly linear may find the sorted-by-size format that mixes the moths with the butterflies and discards taxonomic formalities a bit frustrating. There is, however, a key at the front that most non-entomologists will have no trouble using to navigate and since we non-entomologists have no expectations about what the order should be it's okay. The most interesting section has photos of insect galls from wasps and gall midges. Dragonflies, true flies and most aquatic species (mayflies, stoneflies, etc) are woefully under represented and one gets the impression that the authors just left out species that were too hard to photograph or weren't particularly photogenic.

This is an alright field guide. It seems to mainly focus on butterflies and moths, and doesn't have enough beetles. Beetles are by far the most common insect, and yet the section on them is only the second largest. The section on flies seems a little small. Also the section on bees, wasps, and ants was small, although they had a lot of galls, which is very helpful. Even the sections on true bugs was a little small. What disappointed me the most was the section on Orthoptera; there were only 3 grasshopper species, 1 cockroach (doesn't even belong there...), 1 kadydid species (Mormon Cricket), and a Jerusalem cricket. No field crickets, tree crickets, grigs, or camel crickets just to mention a few. I guess I emphasize this section in particular because it is my favorite section, but still, the field guide is quite lacking in this area. The organization is also a bit strange. Butterflies and moths are mixed together, as well as the bees, wasps, and ants. The field guide overall is good. It gives good information on the species it does include. The kind of information it gives includes: Adult, Larva, Lenth, Wingspan, Food, Location, etc. The section on butterflies and moths (which are not found in butterfly field guides) is quite helpful and more exhaustive than anything else I have; also includes some pictures of catepillars and caccoons. This is prably the section I'll be using the most. If you are looking for a field guide for identifying insects, I would recommend "Kaufman's field guide to Insects of North America"Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America (Kaufman Field Guides).

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