



Specialization, Speciation, and Radiation: The Evolutionary Biology of Herbivorous Insects

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The intimate associations between plants and the insects that eat them have helped define and shape both groups for millions of years. This pioneering volume is a comprehensive, up-to-date treatment of the evolutionary biology of herbivorous insects, including their relationships with host plants and natural enemies. Chapters focus on the dynamic relationships between insects and plants from the standpoint of evolutionary change at different levels of biological organization—individuals, populations, species, and clades. Written by prominent evolutionary biologists, entomologists, and ecologists, the chapters are organized into three sections: Evolution of Populations and Species; Co- and Macroevolutionary Radiation; and Evolutionary Aspects of Pests, Invasive Species, and the Environment. The volume is unified by the idea that understanding the ecological framework of the interactions between herbivorous insects and their host plants is fundamental to understanding their evolution.

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Review

"This book will be an important resource for insect ecologists for many years."

(*Choice* 2008-05-01)

"A wonderful addition to the field . . . Everyone will find something of interest. . . Provides a wealth of information and approaches to digest."

(*Evolution: Intl Journal Of Organic Evolution* 2008-08-01)

From the Inside Flap

"This volume captures the state-of-the-art in the study of insect-plant interactions, and marks the transformation of the field into evolutionary biology. The contributors present integrative reviews of uniformly high quality that will inform and inspire generations of academic and applied biologists. Their presentation together provides an invaluable synthesis of perspectives that is rare in any discipline."—Brian D. Farrell, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

"Tilmon has assembled a truly wonderful and rich volume, with contributions from the lion's share of fine minds in evolution and ecology of herbivorous insects. The topics comprise a fascinating and deep coverage of what has been discovered in the prolific recent decades of research with insects on plants. Fascinating chapters provide deep analyses of some of the most interesting research on these interactions. From insect plant chemistry, behavior, and host shifting to phylogenetics, co-evolution, life-history evolution, and invasive plant-insect interaction, one is hard pressed to name a substantial topic not included. This volume will launch a hundred graduate seminars and find itself on the shelf of everyone who is anyone working in this rich landscape of disciplines."—Donald R. Strong, Professor of Evolution and Ecology, University of California, Davis

"Seldom have so many excellent authors been brought together to write so many good chapters on so many important topics in organismic evolutionary biology. Tom Wood, always unassuming and inspired by living nature, would have been amazed and pleased by this tribute."—Mary Jane West-Eberhard, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

About the Author

Kelley J. Tilmon is an Assistant Professor of Entomology in the Plant Science Department at South Dakota State University.

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