

BOOK REVIEW

The Smaller Majority

Piotr Naskrecki (2007)

Published by Belknap, Harvard University Press, ISBN 978-0-674-02562-2
278pp. RRP A\$31approx. (paperback)

'**The Smaller Majority**' is not entirely dedicated to insects, nor exclusively to invertebrates, instead Piotr Naskrecki's book deals with the 99% of creatures that are smaller than a human finger. The book is truly global as it deals with ecological regions (tropical rainforest, savannah, desert) around the world, rather than specific countries. There are over 400 mostly large, spectacular colour photographs of lizards, amphibians and invertebrates belonging to the crustacea, arachnida and of course, the insecta. The book is beautifully printed in an unusual square format that might be difficult to accommodate on the bookshelf amongst the more familiar rectangular format books. Nevertheless, anyone interested in natural history will be fascinated by the diversity and beauty of the creatures featured and will be unlikely to leave it on the shelf for long. As well as the exquisite images there is adequate text to describe the animals and their habits, but it is the pictures that create the greatest impact. Among the insects showcased in this book are katydids and various other orthopterans, preying mantids, leaf-hoppers, ants, dragonflies, jewel beetles, cockroaches, tenebrionids, lacewings, dung beetles, a few flies and a handful of butterflies - pretty much something for everyone. This beautifully printed and reasonably priced paperback book should have very broad appeal.

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