

## BOOK REVIEW

### Urban Pest Management in Australia

John Gerozisis, Phillip Hadlington and Ion Staunton (2008)

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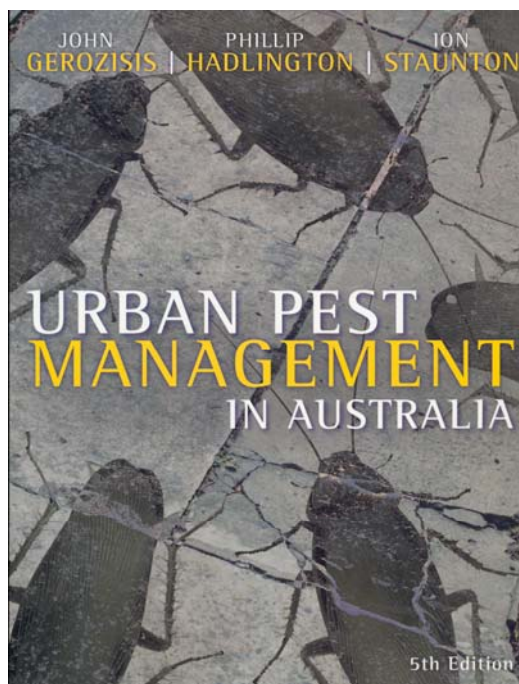
326pp. RRP A\$69.95 (paperback)

This is the fifth edition of this popular reference text for the pest control industry. It has been fully updated and includes a new section that brings together the information on pest biology and pest management strategies and combines it with advice on how to operate in the workplace i.e. the customer's premises.

The book is composed of three major sections: *Understanding the pests and pesticides*; *The urban pests*; and, *Into the Arena*. In all, there are 21 chapters, four of which deal with issues related to the workplace. The book contains 24 colour plates which illustrate the major insect orders and numerous black and white photographs or line drawings to support the text. Insect classification and structure is the focus of the first section and includes information on insect biology including growth and development. This leads into a section that describes the types of pesticides that are available, their regulation including product label requirements, modes of action, formulations, routes of entry and spray mix preparation. Part 2, *'The Urban Pests'* is comprised of ten chapters, five of which are devoted to timber and timber pests (termites, borers etc.). The information on termite identification and biology is comprehensive. In this section there is only a brief description on how to inspect premises suspected of being infested with termites but Part 3 includes a full chapter on this important aspect of the pest controller's duties. Apart from mention of arsenic dust, the section on the elimination of active termites contains no specific information on the insecticides that might be used. This may be to avoid the text becoming obsolete as old insecticides disappear and newer alternatives gain registration but I would have liked more thorough treatment of preferred current treatments. Of course, Part 2 also includes excellent information on the biology and management of common urban pests such as cockroaches, spiders, fleas, flies, ants, bed bugs, lice, cloths moth, carpet beetles, silverfish and pests of food stuffs. There is also a section on vertebrate pests (mice, rats and birds).

Part 3 *'Into the Arena'* introduces the tools of the trade and how to use them safely and effectively. The *'tools'* include the application devices available to pest control operators for the various pesticide formulation they might use or for use in the various situations they may find themselves in, but also, personal protective equipment.

*'Urban Pest Management in Australia'* was first published in 1985. Although already established as the definitive text for pest control operators this new, updated edition demonstrates that the text continues to evolve with the constantly changing pest management industry.



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