

**CHOICE connect**

A publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries

A division of the American Library Association

CHOICE July 2018 Vol. 55 No. 11

Science & Technology

Biology – Zoology

**55-4035**

QL478

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Naskrecki, Piotr. **Hidden kingdom: the insect life of Costa Rica.** Comstock Publishing Associates, 2017. 207p index ISBN 9781501704710 pbk, \$34.95; ISBN 9781501709623 ebook, contact publisher for price.

Even though Costa Rica only constitutes about 0.03 percent of the Earth's landmass, researchers estimate that it contains approximately 6 percent of our planet's biodiversity. In particular, thousands of invertebrate species dwell in this small country's varied ecosystems, and Naskrecki (Harvard Univ.) offers a fascinating glimpse of them. Through a wealth of vivid photographs, we identify organisms belonging to two phyla and eight classes, but most of the species presented belong to class Insecta. Naskrecki also provides valuable information on these insects' reproduction and life cycles; we learn how they interact with one another, with their environment, and with humans. The author explains how these organisms use camouflage, which species are poisonous, the ways in which they communicate, and how some species are solitary while others are social. The text is excellently written and scientifically accurate, yet thoroughly accessible and engaging for lay readers. Many photographs were taken in natural environments, and a few under controlled lighting, but all images are of high quality, revealing details that highlight the unique beauty of each specimen. This work would make an excellent educational coffee-table book.

-- *J. M. Gonzalez, California State University, Fresno*

Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.