

ANIMALS UNDER LOGS AND STONES

C. PHILIP WHEATER & HELEN J. READ

Naturalists' Handbook 22, Richmond Publishing Company

Animals Under Logs and Stones maintains the tradition of the Naturalists' Handbook series, by presenting a concise and accessible introduction to the fauna of this ubiquitous habitat.

It is divided into five sections, the first of which is an introduction giving a brief overview of this niche and a definition of the scope of the book. Section 2 deals with the nature of the environment under logs and stones and offers many suggestions for further work while section three provides an introduction to the biology of the main groups of invertebrates to be found in this micro habitat, along with recommended texts for each of them.

The fourth section comprises a series of keys to the invertebrates likely to be encountered. It begins with a key to the major groups of invertebrates, then deals with each one in turn taking most down to family level while the smaller taxonomic groups are keyed out to species. They are clearly illustrated and written in plain English making them ideal for those with little or no previous experience of invertebrates and veteran zoologists alike.

Section five deals with appropriate field and laboratory techniques, with a brief note on the writing up of results. The plates in the centre of the book provides a series of attractive colour and black and white illustrations of the common elements of this fauna plus an excellent single page pictorial key to the major groups described, which is perfect for introducing younger naturalists to this group of easily collected invertebrates.

The final section comprises a list of useful suppliers and societies plus a comprehensive list of references and recommended further reading.

"*Animals Under Logs and Stones*" is an ideal introduction for both naturalists and students into the fascinating world of invertebrates. It will be invaluable to both sixth-formers and undergraduates and should be catalytic in producing future generations of invertebrate zoologists.

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