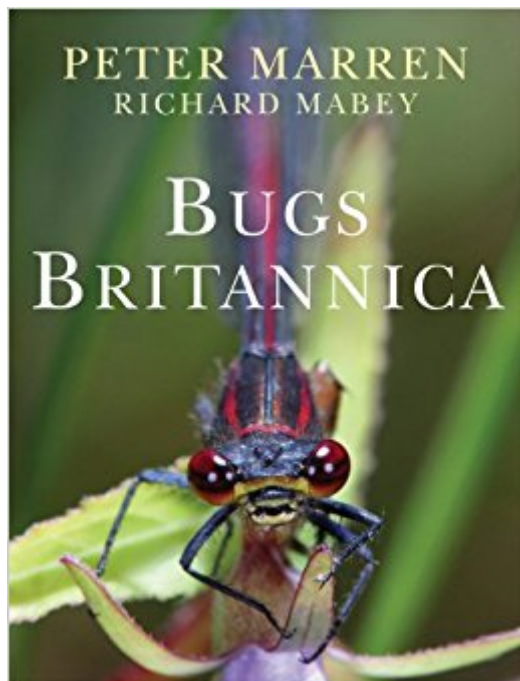


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Bugs Britannica



Synopsis

From sea squirts to slugs to swallowtails—the third, fabulous, and gorgeously illustrated book in Richard Mabey's series, a companion volume to *Flora Britannica* and *Birds Britannica*—a comprehensive look at invertebrates that proves it's the little things that count, this essential and accessible work on bugs is not a biological guide but a richly illustrated cultural one, seen through the eyes of writers, musicians, artists, and naturalists—from the great Tudor naturalist Thomas Muffet, father of Little Miss Muffet, to Irvine Welsh's talking tapeworm in *Filth*; as well as contributions by ordinary men and women who are fascinated by creepy crawlies of all kinds. Structured along a roughly evolving path, the book ranges from simple cell life-forms to spiders, butterflies, and bees, and then back into the water to meet mollusks and "almost-fish." In addition to the fascinating habits of the bug world, the eccentric behavior of the bug obsessives themselves is also included. But of course, the true heroes of the book are the bugs themselves—the nimble-dicks, clock ladies, and coffin-cutters. From the Boring Sponge to the Mermaid's Glove to the Penis Worm, this rich compendium of bugs is a must not only for naturalists but also for anyone who cares about the crawling and buzzing swarms at their feet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The 400-plus color illustrations throughout are superlative." — Library Journal on *Birds Britannica*

Peter Marren is a wildlife writer, journalist, and authority on invertebrate folklore and names. He is the author of Britain's Rare Flowers and The New Naturalists, which won the Society for the History of Natural History's Thackray Medal. Richard Mabey is called "Britain's great living nature writer" by the Times and is the author of Beechcombings, Flora Britannica, Food for Free, Nature Cure, and The New Age Herbalist. He also collaborated with Mark Cocker on Birds Britannica.

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