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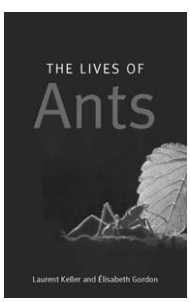
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flows, another stumbles out of the gate and never hits its stride. Sentences are often longer and more convoluted than necessary. Researchers are often scrupulously identified by name, institution, city, and nation. In short, *The Lives of Ants* can be a clunky read. This must reflect, to some degree, the book's ontogeny from the mind of Keller, as interpreted by Gordon, and, finally, translated from the French by James Grieve. But that is little comfort to a reader who, in the midst of what should be a gripping research story, finds himself grasping for the editorial pen. At one point while reading, I grabbed Bert Hölldobler and E. O. Wilson's *The Superorganism* (2008, W. W. Norton) to compare their take on the origins of eusociality. It was a palpable relief to read one well-crafted sentence after another.



Both *The Superorganism* and *The Lives of Ants* came out within months of the other. Both are written by myrmecological heavyweights. Both are pitched to scientifically literate readers. Each has somewhat different foci, however. *The Superorganism* is a bigger commitment, and, at the same time, narrower: It's a thorough review and synthesis on the evolution and diversification of eusociality in the social insects. It is also lavishly illustrated, a positive boon to a readership which couldn't tell a gaster from a hole in the ground. In contrast, *The Lives of Ants* can slip into a briefcase or reside tidily on the nightstand for a short, self-contained account on a variety of ant-related topics.

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NEW TITLES

Animal Evolution: Genomes, Fossils, and Trees. Maximilian J. Telford, D. T. J. Littlewood, eds. Oxford University Press, 2009. 264 pp., illus. $80.00 (ISBN 9780199570300 paper).

Biomolecular Crystallography: Principles, Practice, and Application to Structural Biology. Bernhard Rupp. Garland Science (Taylor and Francis), 2009. 850 pp., illus. $145.00 (ISBN 9780815340812 cloth).

Cognitive Ecology II. Reuven Dukas, John M. Ratcliffe, eds. University of Chicago Press, 2009. 384 pp., illus. $40.00 (ISBN 9780226169361 paper).

Dazzled and Deceived: Mimicry and Camouflage. Peter Forbes. Yale University Press, 2009. 304 pp., illus. $27.50 (ISBN 9780300125399 cloth).

The Ecology of Tropical East Asia. Richard T. Corlett. Oxford University Press, 2009. 272 pp., illus. $65.00 (ISBN 9780199532469 paper).

The Evolution and Emergence of RNA Viruses. Edward C. Holmes. Oxford University Press, 2009. 288 pp., illus. $60.00 (ISBN 9780199211135 paper).

Evolution of Sleep: Phylogenetic and Functional Perspectives. Patrick McNamara, Robert A. Barton, Charles L. Nunn, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2009. 292 pp., illus. $99.00 (ISBN 9780521894975 cloth).

Evolution: The Story of Life. Douglas Palmer. University of California Press, 2009. 384 pp., illus. $39.95 (ISBN 9780520255111 cloth).

An Introduction to the Academic Politics in Agricultural Research. Richard L. Cooper. Dorrance, 2009. 40 pp., $15.00 (ISBN 9781434902412 cloth).

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Megadisasters: The Science of Predicting the Next Catastrophe. Florin Diacu. Princeton University Press, 2009. 216 pp., illus. $24.95 (ISBN 9780691133508 cloth).

Mirror Lake: Interactions among Air, Land, and Water. Thomas C. Winter, Gene E. Likens, eds. University of California Press, 2009. 384 pp., illus. $59.95 (ISBN 9780520261198 cloth).

Modern Biotechnology: Connecting Innovations in Microbiology and Biochemistry to Engineering Fundamentals. Nathan S. Mosier, Michael R. Ladisch. Wiley, 2009. 460 pp., illus. $99.95 (ISBN 9780470114858 cloth).

Multiplicity in Unity: Plant Subindividual Variation and Interactions with Animals. Carlos M. Herrera. University of Chicago Press, 2009. 448 pp., illus. $40.00 (ISBN 9780226327945 paper).

Nature's Matrix: Linking Agriculture, Conservation, and Food Sovereignty. Ivette Perfecto, John Vandermeer, Angus Wright. Earthscan, 2009. 256 pp., illus. $34.95 (ISBN 9781844077823 paper).

Reproductive Skew in Vertebrates: Proximate and Ultimate Causes. Reinmar Hager and Clara B. Jones, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2009. 546 pp., illus. $110.00 (ISBN 9780521864091 cloth).

Seasick: Ocean Change and the Extinction of Life on Earth. Alanna Mitchell. University of Chicago Press, 2009. 176 pp., illus. $25.00 (ISBN 9780226532585 cloth).

Sexual Selection and the Origins of Human Mating Systems. Alan F. Dixson. Oxford University Press, 2009. 232 pp., illus. $70.00 (ISBN 9780199559435 paper).

The Simple Science of Flight: From Insects to Jumbo Jets. Henk Tennekes. MIT Press, 2009. 215 pp., illus. $21.95 (ISBN 9780262513135 paper).

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