



John L. Cloudsley-Thompson

# Evolution and Adaptation of Terrestrial Arthropods

With 86 Figures

Springer-Verlag  
Berlin Heidelberg New York  
London Paris Tokyo

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*Cover illustration:*

European woodlice: *Trichoniscus pusillus*; *Philoscia muscorum*; *Oniscus asellus*; *Porcellio scaber*; *Armadillidium vulgare*. This volume, page 31, Fig. 15a–e.

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ISBN-13: 978-3-540-18188-0

e-ISBN-13: 978-3-642-61360-9

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-61360-9

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data. Cloudsley-Thompson, J. L. Evolution and adaptation of terrestrial arthropods / John L. Cloudsley-Thompson. p. cm. Includes index. ISBN-13: 978-3-540-18188-0

(U.S.) 1. Arthropoda—Evolution. 2. Adaptation

(Biology) I. Title. QL434.35.C55 1987 595.2'0438—dc 19 87-28666 CIP

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2131/3130-543210

## Preface

This is not intended to be a comprehensive text book of entomology and arachnology, but rather a concise synthesis of certain basic information required for BSc (Hons) and MSc (Entomology) examinations. The approach is primarily functional: for instance, the skeletal and waterproofing properties of the arthropod cuticle are discussed, but not its biochemistry; and I have included only those points with which I believe all advanced students of the subject ought to be familiar. Some aspects are today regarded as outdated; others do not appear in any current texts, but I have included them because I consider them to be important. In no way, therefore, should this be regarded as a book of reference. To be frank, it consists of a mass of oversimplifications and unqualified generalizations which are intended to clarify the complex principles underlying them. Once these principles have been thoroughly grasped, the reader will have acquired a sufficiently broad approach to be able to get the best value from more advanced treatises.

My thanks are due to Drs. John Dalingwater, Andrew Milner, and especially Paul Hillyard for their advice on palaeontological matters; to Professors Einar Bursell for permission to use Fig. 8, taken from his *An Introduction to Insect Physiology* (Academic Press), Neil F. Hadley and the Editors of *American Scientist* to reproduce Figs. 52, 53, and to F. Schaller for Fig. 42 from a chapter he wrote in Gupta (ed.) *Arthropod Phylogeny* (Van Nostrand Reinhold). Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Roy Abrahams for redrawing the figures showing insect wing venations and to Eileen Bergh for typing the manuscript. The book was completed during tenure of a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship which I am pleased to acknowledge, while Professor N.A. Mitchison FRS kindly provided me with accommodation in University College, London.

J.L. CLOUDSLEY-THOMPSON

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