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## BOOK REVIEW

GAULD I. & BOLTON B.: *THE HYMENOPTERA*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996, 344 pp. ISBN 0-19-8521-7. Price GBP 37.50.

The Hymenoptera is an insect order that is one of the richest in number of species. The order encompasses noxious, useful and ecologically significant species including phytophagous sawflies, pollinators of cultivated crops, honeybees, and a rich array of parasitoids and predators. The mostly drab and often inconspicuous appearance and the minute size of many hymenopterans may explain why few students have been interested in studying this insect order. The book provides updated information on hymenopterans for use by entomologists, students and amateurs.

The initial chapters address the diversity of Hymenoptera in Great Britain and the life cycles of parasitoids and aculeate apocritans. The middle chapters are devoted to the morphology, classification and development of hymenopterans. Over half of the book comprises keys to the determination of superfamilies and families of Hymenoptera that occur in Great Britain. In addition to numerous line drawings, the book contains 8 colour and 2 halftone plates. A comprehensive list of references is included that contains over 1,050 literary sources, dating mostly from 1960 to 1996.

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