



Signalers and Receivers: Mechanisms and Evolution of Arthropod Communication

By Michael D. Greenfield

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In most terrestrial and aquatic habitats, the vast majority of animals transmitting and receiving communicative signals are arthropods. This book presents the story of how this important group of animals use pheromones, sound, vibration, and light for sexual and social communication. Because of their small to minute body size most arthropods have problems sending and receiving acoustic and optical information, each of which have their own severe constraints. Because of these restraints they have developed chemical signaling which is not similarly limited by scale. Presenting the latest theoretical and experimental findings from studies of signaling, it suggests that close parallels between arthropods and vertebrates reflect a very limited number of solutions to problems in behavior that are available within the confines of physical laws.

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Review

"[A] valuable resource ... Greenfield has done a thoughtful, excellent job of highlighting the central theoretical issues and selecting salient examples from this huge literature. ... a valuable addition to the literature on animal communication."--*Nature*

"To achieve rapid advances in our understanding of animal communication, there is no more powerful combination of tools than a first-hand knowledge of natural history, a mastery of the pertinent scientific literature, and an insightful evolutionary perspective. ... *Signalers and Receivers* ... has it all. ... The author does a particularly good job of presenting the physical characteristics of and constraints on each channel of communication. ... this book is packed with information that is accurate and up to date. ... The greatest value of this book, and perhaps what makes it unique, is Greenfield's clear delineation of the limits of our knowledge, which suggests many new lines for future research."--*The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"This book is very clearly written and the author has made great efforts to ensure that each chapter, following a short introductory chapter, stands on its own with a minimum of cross-referencing...This book [is] fascinating reading for the comparative physiologists and neuroscientists." --*IPHYIOLOGYNEWS*

About the Author

Michael D. Greenfield is at University of Kansas.

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