

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: Entomology and Death: A Procedural Guide, 2nd Edition

REFERENCE: Haskell NH, Williams RE, editors. Entomology and death: a procedural guide, 2nd edn. Clemson, SC: Forensic Entomology Partners, 2008, 216 pp.

This second edition of the spiral bound procedural guide presents updated information on a broad range of topics relating to the practice of forensic entomology. Contributions are included from 12 professionals, including editors Neal H. Haskell and Ralph E. Williams. Chapter topics include the history and status of the field, case studies, basic information on arthropods associated with decomposing human remains, protocols for evidence recovery at the crime scene, death scene, and at autopsy, the use of aquatic insect evidence, laboratory procedures, issues relating to climatological data, record keeping and reports, and ethics. Also included are a glossary, a bibliography with 103 entries, an index, and six appendices providing supplementary information. The volume provides current perspective to the original edition, published in 1990. Although content throughout the volume has been updated, there is an expanded discussion of evidence collection and new chapters on the identification of aquatic organisms and assessment of climatological information.

This revised edition maintains the general format and intent of the first edition. The relatively small, wire-bound volume can be easily utilized in the field, laboratory, and classroom. The spiral binding facilitates use of specific sections of the book as needed. The volume is aimed at all nonspecialists with an interest in forensic entomology. Although the coverage is broad and presents detailed information, the volume is written in an easy to read style that should make it especially attractive to students and other nonspecialists.

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