

# MINIBEASTS

True rulers  
of our world  
and the key  
to our survival

ALAN HENDERSON

A D V A N C E I N F O R M A T I O N S H E E T

## Minibeasts

*True rulers of our world and the key to our survival*

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**SPECIFICATIONS** 254mm x 254mm, Cased with Jacket, 160 pages

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### KEY POINTS

- Enshrined in our urban jungles, we often feel remote from the exquisite world of biological diversity. *Minibeasts* offers an astonishing, up-close insight into the army of alien and exotic transformers that surround us unnoticed.
- Did you ever have a shoebox of cicadas when you were a kid? Or raid a neighbour's mulberry tree to feed your silk worms? The fascination with miniature monsters starts young and for some never leaves us. *Minibeasts* rekindles that childhood curiosity.
- We all know that the world faces crop shortages on an unimaginable scale should bees not be able to fulfil their vital role in pollination. *Minibeasts* takes us inside the worlds of numerous other insects and reveals how they too are key to our survival.

This stunning insight into the micro world of the minibeasts reveals the critical roles these true rulers of our world play in our future survival. Simply put, without the invertebrates (insects) and other tiny critters, humans would not survive. While outlining the importance of the minibeast world, this book is also a visual feast of detail and colour, capturing form and behaviour that the naked eye isn't normally able to see when encountering these small creatures. The result is a book that captivates the reader while at the same time inspiring a new appreciation for these magnificent animals. Lavishly illustrated with breathtaking macro-photography, each chapter focuses on a specific aspect of minibeasts and includes introductory text followed by images and informative captions. Among the topics covered are the jobs minibeasts perform that enable life on earth to exist, as well as the ways in which they have evolved to suit their environments and how we borrow ideas from them in the fields of biotechnology, engineering and design. As we will come to realise, from new medical drugs to hi-tech robotics, minibeasts provide a wealth of material for humans to draw on to help solve our 21<sup>st</sup>-century problems.



Antennae come in a vast array of shapes and sizes depending on the lifestyle the particular animals lead. They are chemoreceptors, enabling insects to find food and in the case of the cicada, detect the pheromones of a mate. This curious beetle (*Callirhipis* sp.) has impressive antennae that can be folded away when not in use.

MINIBEASTS | 2



A perfect fit. A rainforest millipede protects itself by rolling into a disc, its hundreds of legs folded neatly, its head secure in the middle. This one even has some hitchhikers – small mites that live on the millipede and feed on debris on its body, a mutually beneficial relationship.

MINIBEASTS | 3



Assassin flies are serial killers that pluck their victims from the air. They sit and wait and watch for passing prey with their massive eyes as full alert. Once spotted, the Assassin fly takes to the air in pursuit of its prey. With superior speed and precision, it captures the insect and kills with lethal injections. If there returns to a perch to feed, this one has captured a blowfly.

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Australia 2884 Wollombi Rd, Wollombi, NSW 2325  
Ph: 61 2 4998 3327

New Zealand 226 High Street, Dunedin 9016  
Ph: 64 3 477 1615

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Alan Henderson** has had a fascination for invertebrates his entire life. He has successfully combined this with his other passion, macro photography, and his images have been published around the world. Alan operates Minibeast Wildlife from the tropical paradise of Kuranda, Queensland.