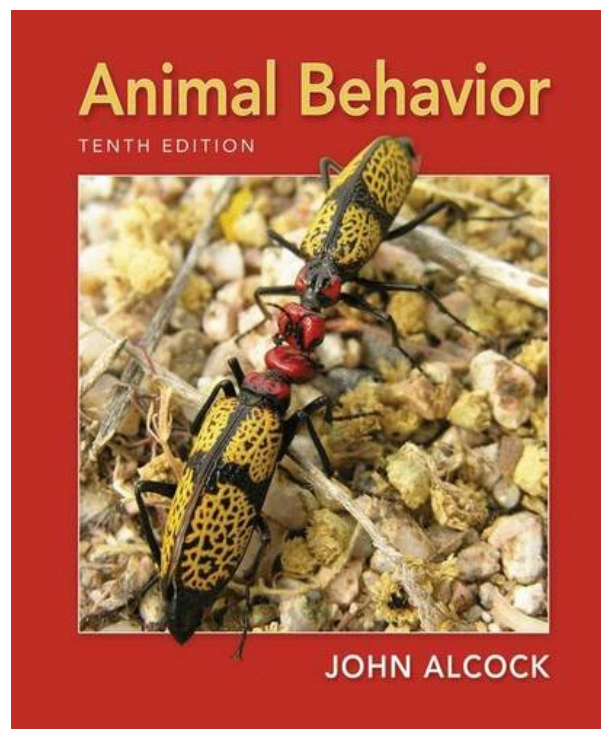


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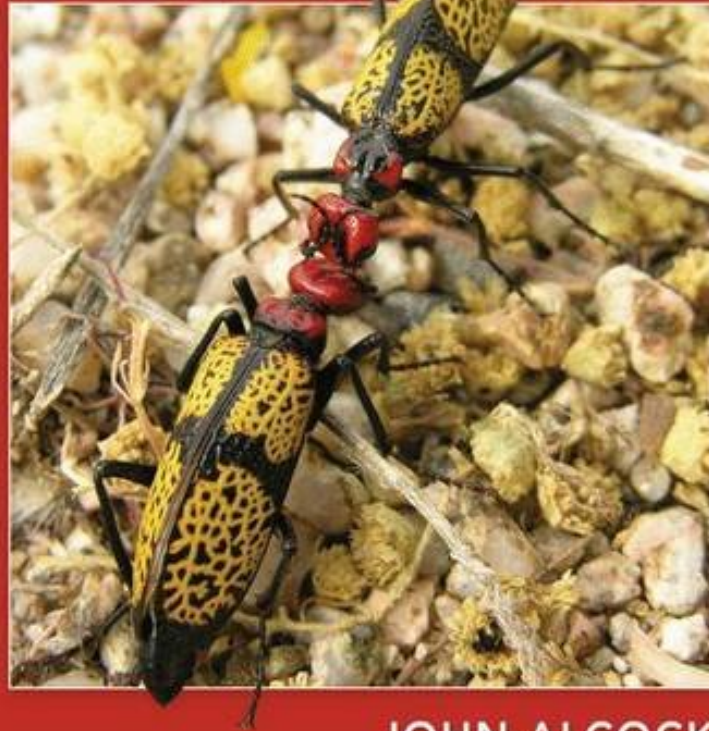


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About the Author

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The tenth edition features a major reorganisation, focusing first on the evolutionary basis of behavior followed by the underlying proximate mechanisms. Enduring features of previous editions also remain; the clear engaging writing style, the beautifully illustrated text with many new photographs and numerous references to new scientific articles.

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Most helpful customer reviews

72 of 75 people found the following review helpful.

Ok. I take it back (send it back)

By John Anderson

Every time I teach *Animal Behaviour* I swear that I am going to change texts "the next time" -and every time UNTIL NOW my students have said that they REALLY liked Alcock, well, the latest edition changes all that. As other reviewers have noted (and for reasons that escape me) Alcock has allowed his publisher to "dumb down" the text into a bland "pretty face" that turned students off in droves. As I moved through each chapter I kept thinking "How could someone as smart & interesting as Alcock make so many cool subjects so BORING?" Previous editions convince me that it ain't him, so it must be the publisher. Margins are huge, more and more gratuitous "illustrations" clutter up the text & break one's stream of thought, and by mid-term I essentially threw up my hands, apologized to the class & went to using the original primary sources with the book as a marginal reference for those that got lost. If you have a huge lecture course full of

unimaginative students who want to take one & one only Behaviour course so that they can say that they have "done Behaviour" then this text is probably perfect for you, otherwise I would suggest haunting used book shops for past editions or going straight to the literature. The whole thing reminds me of "New Coke" - a marketing scheme that ignored its market. Alcock is an excellent scholar and in the past his book has been a great source of original material which I have encouraged my students to have on their shelves as a reference source, but this is a shame.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

Wouldn't recommend to instructors

By Sally Kimball

I'm really unhappy with my choice of this book for my college-level animal behavior course. Each chapter lacks any overarching structure or organization, and is instead just one example after another, strung together without continuity. Case studies are ONLY useful if they complement fundamental information about the theory underlying the concept. In this textbook, the underlying concepts are presented as afterthoughts or parenthetical sidenotes (when they are presented at all). Many of the figures are informative, but a good percentage of them are also just pretty pictures that don't convey anything about the topic at hand.

Given that many students opt not to open their textbooks at all, I look to the course text as a resource the students can turn to if they don't understand something we discuss in class. I don't think this text would help clarify any of the concepts I teach, so it's not particularly useful. I will definitely be looking for a better text in the future.

24 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

Going downhill

By A Customer

I used this book as a student and enjoyed it then. Years later, as a professor, I decided to switch from Krebs and Davies' text to this one for the greater number of examples. However, the lack of theoretical underpinning makes this book more of a fun read than an educational one. My students often thought "wow, that's cool" without understanding the significance. I also found the avoidance of mathematical models troubling. This is a trend I have seen in the most recent Ricklefs' Ecology text as well (which I no longer use). Beautiful photos, easy to read, lots of examples, but much too watered down. I would give this book to my parents to read to understand animal behavior, but I won't use it for a college text again.

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