

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780641903321
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Titolo	Bugs and the Victorians [[electronic resource] /] / J.F.M. Clark
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.] ; ; London, : Yale University Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-35272-5 9786612352720 0-300-16003-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (336 p.)
Classificazione	NU 2000
Disciplina	595.70942/09034
Soggetti	Entomology - England - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [245]-310) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- The politics of insects -- Struggle for the minds of insects -- Bees and ants -- Social insects and secular science -- Darwin and the entomologists -- The Colorado beetle -- A female entomologist -- Insects and empire -- House flies -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	In the wake of the Scientific Revolution, the impulse to name and classify the natural world accelerated, and insects presented a particularly inviting challenge. This lively book explores how science became increasingly important in nineteenth-century British culture and how the systematic study of insects permitted entomologists to engage with the most pressing questions of Victorian times: the nature of God, mind, and governance, and the origins of life. By placing insects in a myriad of contexts-politics, religion, gender, and empire-John F. McDiarmid Clark demonstrates the impact of Victorian culture on the science of insects and on the systematic knowledge of the natural world. Through engaging accounts of famous and eccentric innovators who sought to define social roles for themselves through a specialist study of insects-among them a Tory clergyman, a banker and member of Parliament, a wealthy spinster, and an entrepreneurial academic-Clark highlights the role of insects in the making of modern Britain and maintains that the legacy of Victorian entomologists continues to this day.

