

About this publication

This is the first color guide to grasshoppers in the southeastern United States. The grasshoppers rival butterflies and beetles for beauty, and surpass nearly all other insect groups for their abundance and ecological importance. Grasshoppers are usually the most abundant of the large insects in all Florida ecosystems, and are a critical food resource for birds and other small vertebrates. Over one-fourth of Florida's grasshoppers are unique, found nowhere else in the world. All of the acridid grasshoppers found in Florida are included in this guide. Over 100 color photographs, numerous line drawings, and nontechnical descriptions provide for easy and rapid identification. Also included are information on anatomy, life history, ecological significance, geographical distribution, and the management of grasshopper pests. This is the perfect guide for young people who are interested in collecting insects, and for people of all ages who are interested in learning about natural history.

About the authors

John Capinera is professor and chairman of the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. Although John has broad interests in insect ecology and in crop pest management, for over 20 years he has been particularly fascinated by grasshoppers, and has published numerous articles on grasshopper biology. Clay Scherer and Jason Squitier are graduate students in entomology at the University of Florida. Both Clay and Jason conducted research on the relationship of grasshopper diversity and abundance to plant availability and community structure.

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