fun for children to learn. The large number
and diversity of group activities helps to set
this book apart from other similar publica-
tions. Those interested in child science edu-
cation should find this book very useful as
an aid to their teaching efforts.

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But Will It Bite Me?

Edith G. Bailes with Louis J. Lipovsky
Cardamom Press, Richmond, Maine, 1984,
110 pp., $9.95
and
Someone Saw a Spider
Shirley Climo
Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1985, x, 133
pp., $11.50

Both of these books would make good addi-
tions to the nature and science sections of
primary school and public libraries or for
reading at home. They would also be excel-
ent gifts for entomologists to give to their
children or young friends. In most respects,
the books are not similar to each other, but
both are well designed to encourage an in-
terest in arthropods among young readers.

But Will It Bite Me? is written at a level
appropriate for children in elementary
school. As the title suggests, the book makes
frequent mention of the question of
whether certain insects are likely to bite or
sting. The answers are truthful, always
pointing out those species which may hurt a
child, but emphasizing the fact that most in-
sects are not harmful to man. It is made
clear that many insects will bite or sting only
when they or their nest are threatened. The
book also emphasizes the tremendous ben-
fits that we gain from insects, from their
role as pollinators to their important posi-
tion in natural food chains. The unofficial
subtitle, "A reference book of insects for
children—and their grownups", is more
than just a sales gimmick. The authors have
done an excellent job of relating basic ento-
ymology to a non-scientist audience. They
begin by explaining complete and inco-
mplete metamorphosis, including the names
of successive stages and the necessity of
molting. This is followed by a concise syn-
opsis of insect structure, leading into the
main body of the book, which treats several
common insects individually. Ranging from
dragonflies and crickets to fleas and ants,
each insect group is represented by a line drawing, representative size scale
bar, ordinal name and discussion of the
group's biology and importance to man. The
book is well-written, entertaining, and accu-
rate. It should prove both enlightening and
enticing to "children and their grownups"
who are curious readers.

Someone Saw a Spider is written for a
slightly older audience (ages 9–12 ac-
cording to the cover flap). Its unofficial sub-
title, "Spider Facts and Folktales," sums up
the basic theme reasonably well. Each of the
nine chapters starts with a short factual de-
scription of some aspect of spider biology,
followed by a related folktale, myth, or fable
about spiders. The stories come from sev-
eral countries and time periods, including
myths from classical Greece and Rome, spider folklore of American Indians
and many others. The cosmopolitan perspec-
tive of the book also includes pieces from Por-
tugal, Scotland, Africa, Japan and Russia.
Both the factual accounts and the folktales
(which were rewritten from other sources)
are very interesting and well documented.
At the end of the book the author has in-
cluded a short appendix with explanations
of spider biology, as well as fictional ac-
counts and folk literature sources. The book
is beautifully illustrated throughout with
black-and-white drawings by Dirk Zimmer.

This is not the best children's book avail-
able in terms of its pure arachnological con-
ten. Some of the biological information is
brief and occasionally somewhat sim-
plistic. However, there are certainly no
nagging errors. The real beauty and impor-
tance of the book as an educational tool is
that it effectively demonstrates just how
often and in how many ways human cultures
have been influenced by observations of the
natural world. This is a subject that, unfortu-
nately, many professional entomologists fre-
quently fail to bring to light in their class-
rooms. We should bear in mind that
technical, agricultural, and medical implica-
tions are not the only aspects of our disci-
pline that are important to society.

State of Biological Control

The Role of Biological Control in Pest Man-
agement
George Allen & Alejandro Rada (eds.)
University of Ottawa Press, Ottawa, 1984, x,
173 pp., $15.00.

In 1981 the International Organization for
Biological Control sponsored an inter-
national symposium on pest management in
Santiago, Chile to inaugurate the Aguila Sur
Experimental Station. Pest management ex-
erts from Latin America, North America,
and Europe shared their ideas, and scientists
from different disciplines, including ento-
mology, rural sociology, and administration
were at a single meeting. The proceedings
of that symposium offer a rare chance to ex-
amine in one volume the variety of research
approaches that bring biological control and
IPM programs to fruition.

The title of the book doesn't fully de-
scribe its contents, for a quarter of the book
examines the sociological aspects of imple-
menting biological control technology. The
book might more aptly have been titled The
Role of Biological Control in Agricultural
Development.

The papers are reviews that fall roughly
into five categories. Four papers summarize
existing IPM programs (fruit trees—R. H.
Gonzalez, strawberries—R. N. Williams,
corn—D. D. Calvin and glasshouse crops—
N. W. Hussey). A series of three papers gives
the history of biological control experiences
in Latin America (Chile—R. S. Ripa, Argent-
tina—I. S. Crouzel and IOBC programs