

# The Great Lakes Entomologist

---

Volume 1  
Number 8 -- June 1968 *Number 8 -- June 1968*

Article 9

---

June 1968

**Experimental Statistics in Entomology. F. M. Wadley. Washington, D. C.: Graduate School Press: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1967. viii, 132 pp. \$6.50.**

Charles E. Cress  
*Michigan State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle>



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Cress, Charles E. 1968. "Experimental Statistics in Entomology. F. M. Wadley. Washington, D. C.: Graduate School Press: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1967. viii, 132 pp. \$6.50.," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, vol 1 (8)

Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol1/iss8/9>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Biology at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Great Lakes Entomologist by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at [scholar@valpo.edu](mailto:scholar@valpo.edu).

easily followed. The introductory chapter describing the principles and history behind their development will be found particularly useful for those wishing to experiment on new species. The detailed treatment of the methods and formulae used, as well as the listing of sources of supply, and costs, adds enormously to the value of the book and should enable either an individual or an already well-equipped laboratory to prepare a diet and commence rearing without further instruction.

Many of the chapters give detailed and useful biological information. Indeed, it is only by a proper understanding of all aspects of the life-cycle that a properly integrated control or eradication programme can be initiated against a pest species. It should be borne in mind, however, that the biological information presented here applies to laboratory conditions and may differ from that of feral populations.

As is usual in a book by many authors, there is some variation in layout and treatment. It would have led to greater uniformity if, for instance, all temperatures had been expressed on the same scale. The work is well printed on good, heavy quality paper, but considering its price, it is rather a pity it has not been encased in a rather stronger binding. These, however, are minor blemishes, and this book should be on the shelves of every Entomologist concerned with the rearing of insects.

Brian O. C. Gardiner  
Agricultural Research Council  
Cambridge, England

EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS IN ENTOMOLOGY. F. M. Wadley. Washington, D. C.: Graduate School Press, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1967. viii, 132 pp. \$6.50.

This book "is intended to help entomological workers who have a real interest, but little training, in applying statistical methods to research problems." The author has proceeded under the false assumption that removal of all mathematical precision *and* the elimination of the rationale behind statistical techniques results in simplification and clarification. This presents an insoluble dilemma to the statistically uninformed reader. He is given no basis (either mathematical or logical) for the design of a good experiment or for the use of a statistic once computed. A writer who discusses a range of topics from the construction of a histogram all the way through multiple regression, lattice designs and discriminant functions in 132 pages, has to be kidding. The errors of omission are so overwhelming that it seems pointless to attempt a list of the many errors of commission. Needless to say, *Experimental Statistics in Entomology* is not recommended reading for anyone, least of all the novice statistician.

Charles E. Cress  
Plant Science Statistician  
Department of Crop Science  
Michigan State University