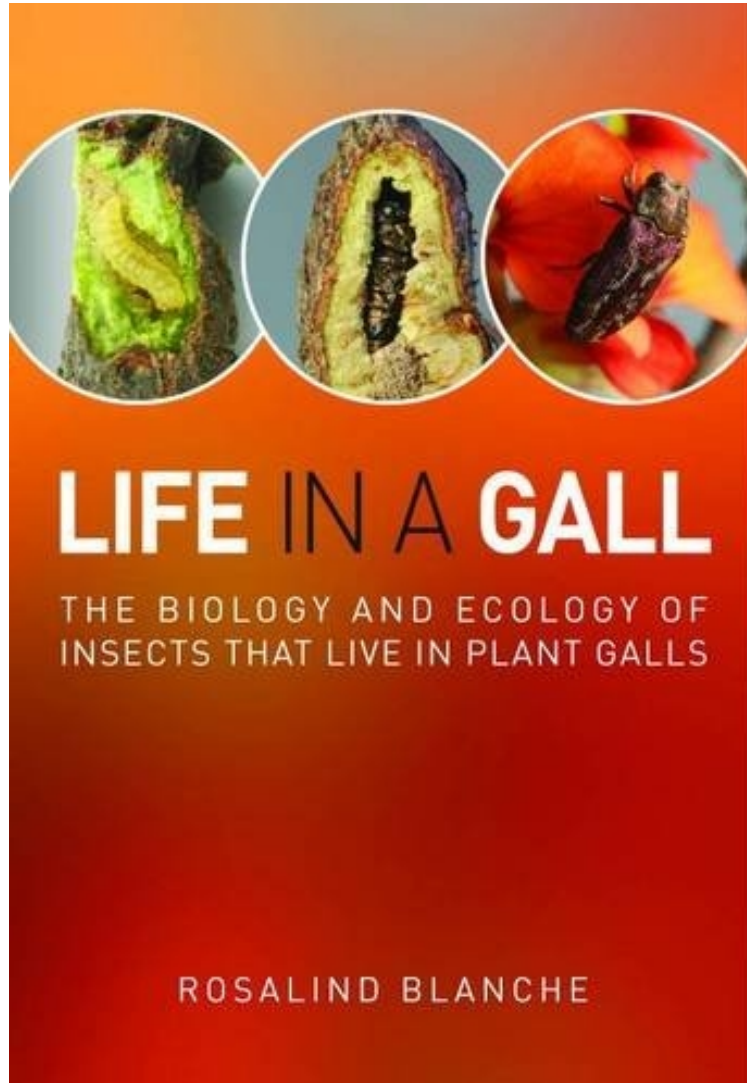


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Life in a Gall: The Biology and Ecology of Insects that Live in Plant Galls

Rosalind Blanche

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Rosalind Blanche : Life in a Gall: The Biology and Ecology of Insects that Live in Plant Galls before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life in a Gall: The Biology and Ecology of Insects that Live in Plant Galls:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good pictures and lots of information By Robert G. Kennedy I bought this for my 10 year old granddaughter to assist her with a school science project. She loved the book and won a science fair prize.

What are plant galls and how are they caused? This book introduces the Australian native insects that induce galls on plants and the plant species that host them. It explores the ways the insects have adapted to living part of their lives in the confined spaces of galls, and describes the strategies employed by different insect groups to find a suitable site to induce a gall, obtain food, mate and escape the gall. *Life in a Gall* also looks at the predators, parasitoids, inquiline, kleptoparasites and micro-organisms that prey on gall-inducing insects and the ways the insects defend themselves from these enemies. It covers the problems gall-inducing insects can cause for agriculture, forestry and horticulture, and gives examples of several pest species. On the positive side, the book describes the essential services gall-inducing insects provide by pollinating figs, controlling invasive weeds and contributing to indigenous food. The final chapter provides tips for people who want to collect and study galls, and shows that answering many of the questions still surrounding gall-inducing insects is not restricted to professional scientists but can be achieved by diligent amateurs too.

About the Author Rosalind Blanche wrote her PhD thesis on the ecology of gall-inducing insects on Australian native plants. After graduating from Macquarie University in 1996, she worked as a research ecologist first with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and later at Charles Darwin University. She then moved to the Atherton Tablelands to carry out research for CSIRO Entomology. She has been an associate-editor of the journal *Austral Ecology* since 2000.