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**Carmen Ramos Chandler**  
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## CSUN biologist offers guide to California Beetles

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Contributed by: Carmen Ramos Chandler on 1/18/2007

With an estimated 8,000 species, beetles comprise the largest group of animals in the state of California.

Categorizing these insects was a momentous task, but Cal State Northridge biologist **James N. Hogue** did it. The result of his work can be found in his most recent publication, *Field Guide to Beetles of California*.

Written and designed for amateur naturalists, students and field biologists, Hogue's book includes information on beetle identification, natural history and distribution, discussing 569 species in the context of 56 families. Also included are more than 300 color photographs, 110 drawings, two maps and an illustrated key to beetle families.

Along with classification, the book directs beetle enthusiasts on how to begin their own beetle collection, providing tips on finding beetles and on how to properly keep them in captivity. Hogue also lists those species of Californian beetles which are threatened or endangered.

"This book is useful for people who are interested in the natural history of California," said Hogue. "It can be used as a tool to identify commonly encountered, interesting and otherwise noteworthy beetles in the state whether found while out hiking or home in your backyard."

Hogue maintains Northridge's biological collections, caring for specimens of insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and plants on a daily basis. Apart from these duties, he also instructs two biology courses at the university. His passion for wildlife began in childhood, a time when Hogue recalled his first encounters with beetles. Combined with extensive research, his childhood passion ultimately resulted in "Field Guide to Beetles of California."

Hogue co-authored the book with longtime friend and fellow beetle enthusiast, **Arthur V. Evans**. A research associate in the Department of Entomology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and also in the Department of Recent Invertebrates at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Evans also collaborated with Hogue on their 2004 book, "Introduction to California Beetles."

For more information regarding either publication, contact Hogue at (818) 677-3310.

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