



The Mosquito

Tiny Killers

From the book:

Spineless Wonders

A Small Point of Interest

Mosquitoes. You know what they are. Those little thirsty, blood-sucking, buzzing irritants. They can practically be found anywhere. Though growing up to be only just a quarter of an inch, these suckers can kill you.

They are mostly known to kill by transmitting diseases. This includes, malaria, yellow fever, dengue, filariasis, encephalitis, and the list goes on. People have died by the thousands from these diseases.

Not only that, they can suck the life out of animals -- literally. In the Arctic tundra, Canadian

researchers sat in a cloud of mosquitoes long enough to estimate that they were bitten 9000 times per minute. If they went on for two more hours, half of their blood supply would be drained!

Now, that damage was done only to humans. Think about animals! They have killed thousands by doing so.

I don't mean to have you scared. I really don't. But knowing how powerful these insects are seems so bitterly incredible.

Reference

Conniff, R. (1996) *Spineless wonders*. New York, New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc.