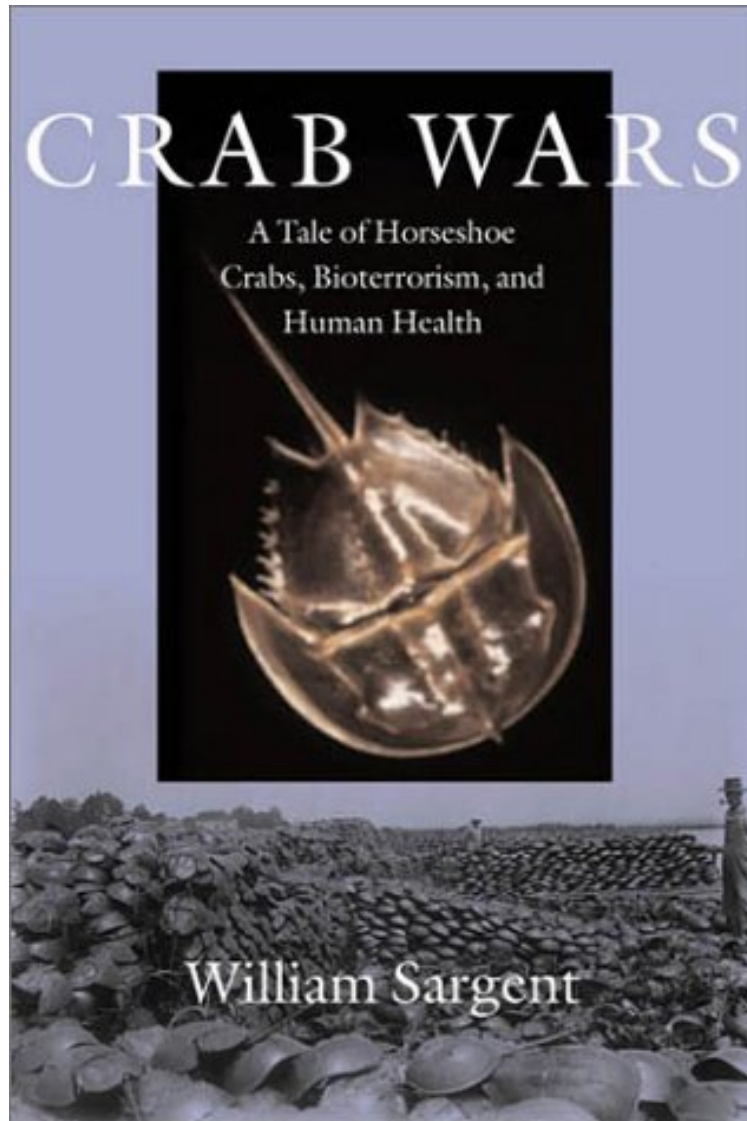


(Pdf free) Crab Wars: A Tale of Horseshoe Crabs, Bioterrorism, and Human Health

Crab Wars: A Tale of Horseshoe Crabs, Bioterrorism, and Human Health

William Sargent

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William Sargent : Crab Wars: A Tale of Horseshoe Crabs, Bioterrorism, and Human Health before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crab Wars: A Tale of Horseshoe Crabs, Bioterrorism, and Human Health:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Edmund Austin YochumJust plain vicious, they attacked Red Lobster21 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Should Be Required Reading In Our Schools

Colleges! By A Customer The previous reviewer must have a big ax to grind! His ad hominem attack on the author is outrageous, and ridiculous! I have both a medical research background, and lived many years near the Atlantic Ocean. Horseshoe crabs were once so common, you practically tripped over them, now they are virtually nonexistent! Horseshoe crabs are in such big trouble that the Governors of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia have drastically reduced the allowable catch off their shores! The situation has deteriorated to the point that the Audubon Society is concerned about the potential extinction of certain migrating birds, which are dependent on Horseshoe crab eggs! Should we just sit on our hands in order to keep one tiny, and economically insignificant industry - whose sole purpose is to turn these ancient, and medically priceless, creatures into bait - happy? Sorry! No way! These offshore waters belong to all of us! They are not anyone's private domain to destroy at one's leisure for monetary gain!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting, had know idea there blood was used ...

By Brian A. Adams Very interesting, had know idea there blood was used for medical testing. When I was a kid we would go see an uncle on the cape . He would use the horseshoe crabs to scratch his back!

Surviving almost unmolested for 300 million years, the horseshoe crab is now the object of an intense legal and ethical struggle involving marine biologists, environmentalists, US government officials, biotechnologists, and international corporations. The source of this friction is the discovery 25 years ago that the blood of these ancient creatures serves as the basis for the most reliable test for the deadly and ubiquitous gram-negative bacteria. These bacteria are responsible for life-threatening diseases like meningitis, typhoid, E. coli, Legionnaire's Disease and toxic shock syndrome. Because every drug certified by the FDA must be tested using the horseshoe crab derivative known as Limulus lysate, a multimillion dollar industry has emerged involving the license to "bleed" horseshoe crabs and the rights to their breeding grounds. Since his youthful fascination with these ancient creatures, William Sargent has spent much of his life observing, studying, and collecting horseshoe crabs. As a result, he presents a thoroughly accessible insider's guide to the discovery of the lysate test, the exploitation of the crabs at the hands of multinational pharmaceutical conglomerates, local fishing interests, and the legal and governmental wrangling over the creatures' ultimate fate. In the end, the story of the horseshoe crab is a sobering reflection on the unintended consequences of scientific progress and the danger of self-regulated industries controlling a limited natural resource.

From Booklist Horseshoe crabs have lived on the earth 300 times longer than human beings, and ever since the 1956 discovery of an invaluable property in its blood, this ancient species has saved millions of human lives. In a just and reasonable world, the horseshoe crab, which can be bled and returned to the water unharmed, would be treated with the utmost respect. Instead, crabs are caught in massive quantities and smashed for use as bait, seriously depleting a population essential not only for a pharmaceutical test called limulus amoebocyte lysate, which is used the world over to detect the lethal gram negative bacteria, but also for sustaining migrating bird populations. Sargent, a Cape Cod native who has been wild about horseshoe crabs since boyhood, is intimate with every aspect of the species' life and the lysate industry now irrevocably connected to it (horseshoe crab blood is worth \$15,000 a quart), a many-faceted story he illuminates by profiling fishermen, biotech entrepreneurs, politicians, and environmentalists. Our dependence on this amazing animal will only increase, Sargent observes, as must our vigilance in protecting it. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Makes for fascinating reading . . . Crab Wars offers a compact introduction to the horseshoe crab and the controversy it has recently engendered."--Journal of the History of Biology Here's a species older than time, a species key to the great migrations transecting our planet--and in the space of a few years our short-term interests have brought it close to ruin. It's a powerful metaphor (one wishes it were only a metaphor) and its tale is told with enormous care and balance. And with just the faintest hint of optimism at the end. (Bill McKibben, author of The End of Nature) Not only a wonderful and important story, engagingly written, but a great detective piece, at the interface of biology and politics. It's destined to be a classic. (Bernd Heinrich, Professor of Biology, University of Vermont)