



Hokie Bugfest (October 17, 2015)



It's time to get collecting!! Start an insect collection and have it judged at the Hokie Bugfest on October 17. The Bugfest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech (Latham Ballroom) in Blacksburg.

Collect as many insects as you can and identify them as accurately as possible. Pin them or store them in your freezer until you are ready to pin them. Each collection should have no more than 50 specimens. Check your identifications with Bugguide.net.

Scoring guidelines:

Insect Collection Grading Areas	Possible Points
50 insects: representing at least 5 out of 7 listed groups	25
Correct identification of insects to order (Diptera, Coleoptera, etc.): use Latin (scientific) names	25
Correct pinning technique as shown in activity book	20
Specimen quality: has most body parts, not smashed or faded	15
Display quality: arrangement of insects, attractive display, viewable case	15
Bonus: judge's discretion based on overall effort level and accuracy; identification of insect importance	10
Total	110

Age groups:

- Junior Collectors: Ages 8 to 13
- Senior Collectors: Ages 14 to 18

Winners:

Collections will be awarded first, second, and third place prizes based on the scoring guidelines. The top three collections (one "Outstanding" from each age group and a "Best in Show") will receive a grand prize. All participants and their collections will receive an award!!

Who can enter:

Any 4-H club is eligible. Entries are limited to groups or teams. Individuals within groups can contribute their best specimens to the club collection, which is judged as a team entry. Entries should include the name of the 4-H club, the county, and the contact person for that group (with phone number and email address).



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How to enter:

Submit your collection at our registration tables at Hokie Bugfest between **10 a.m. and noon**. Fill out and submit the attached entry form with your collection. Entries will be judged at 2 p.m. October 17. Collections may be picked up after judging is completed.

Suggested supplies:

Foam, pins, magnifying glass, and killing jar (a mason jar with a paper towel with a little nail polish remover works well). Make sure to pin insects from your kill jar right away or store them in the freezer until you are ready to pin them. See “Adventures with Insects” for tips on finding, collecting, and pinning insects.

Resources:

“Adventures with Insects”

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-408/444-408.html>

Also, check your local library for field guides, insect books, and other resources!

Good places to collect:

- State and local parks
- Hiking trails
- Around ponds and lakes
- Local gardens and fields
- Forests
- Agricultural and livestock fields
- Outside YOUR house!
- You will have to GET OUTSIDE!!!

Questions: Contact Stephanie Blevins: (540) 231-6543 or sblevin@vt.edu.

WARNING: Be careful collecting insects such as wasps, bees, velvet ants, and Asian needle ants that may sting or bite. Do not go on private land without the owner’s permission. Ask your parents or guardians before going bug hunting, and be aware of your surroundings. Watch out for mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders such as black widows. If you have known allergies to bees or other insects, this contest may not be for you. Have fun and be safe!

See page 3 for collection entry form.

See page 4 for seven groups of commonly found insects.

See page 5 for insect collection labels.



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4-H Insect Collection Entry Form

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Contact Person for 4-H Club/Team

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ County: _____

4-H Club/Team Information

Club/Team Name: _____

Age Group (Circle One): Jr. Collectors (8-13) Sr. Collectors (14-18)

Names of Collectors: _____

----- **DO NOT FILL OUT BELOW DOTTED LINE, JUDGES ONLY** -----

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Pollinators:

- Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths)
- Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants)
- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Diptera (flies)

Decomposers:

- Hymenoptera (ants)
- Diptera (flies)
- Blattodea (cockroaches)
- Coleoptera (beetles)

Plant feeders:

- Hemiptera (cicadas, stink bugs, leafhoppers)
- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Hymenoptera (sawflies, horntails, bees)
- Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths)
- Phasmatodea (walking sticks)

Urban:

- Blattodea (cockroaches)
- Hemiptera (bed bugs, stink bugs)
- Coleoptera (ladybird beetles)
- Isoptera (termites)
- Siphonaptera (fleas)
- Phthiraptera (lice)

Mega fauna:

- Neuroptera (Dobsonflies)
- Plecoptera (stoneflies)
- Odonata (grasshoppers)
- Coleoptera (Hercules beetles)
- Diptera (crane flies, horse flies)
- Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, velvet ants)
- Mantodea (praying mantises)
- Phasmatodea (walking sticks)
- Mecoptera (scorpionflies)

Medically important:

- Diptera (mosquitoes)
- Siphonaptera (fleas)
- Phthiraptera (lice)
- Hemiptera (bed bugs)
- Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants)

Seasonal insects:

- Hemiptera (periodical cicadas, brown marmorated stink bugs)
- Hymenoptera (honey bees, European hornet, fire ants, Asian needle ants)
- Coleoptera (Asian long-horned beetle, emerald ash borer)
- Lepidoptera (gypsy moths, squash stem borer)

Insect Order Labels: *Place in Bottom of Box to Group Insect Orders*

Protura	Grylloblattodea	Plecoptera	Siphonaptera
Collembola	Phasmatodea	Psocoptera	Diptera
Diplura	Orthoptera	Phthiraptera	Trichoptera
Microcoryphia	Mantodea	Hemiptera	Lepidoptera
Thysanura	Blattodea	Neuroptera	Hymenoptera
Ephemeroptera	Isoptera	Coleoptera	
Odonata	Dermaptera	Mecoptera	

Collection Labels:

Top Tag: Location, Date, & Name of Collector

Bottom Tag: Insect Order & Common Name (or Family)

Ex. (Top Tag)

(Bottom Tag)

Montgomery Co., VA
May 15, 2009
John Doe

Hemiptera
Green Stink Bug

(Top Tag)

(Bottom Tag)

(Top Tag)

(Bottom Tag)

(Top Tag)

(Bottom Tag)
